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TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
Vol. 53 • No. 194
16 pages • ₹6.00

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NEARBY

Cong. takes out mega 'Freedom March'

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Congress on Monday took out a mega 'Freedom March' in Bengaluru to commemorate 75 years of Independence with nearly a lakh people participating from various districts of the State.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

Flower show ends with revenue of ₹3.3 crore

BENGALURU

The 212th flower show held at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden since August 5, on account of Independence Day, ended on Monday with record turnouts. The crowd, visitors claimed, was uncontrollable, as over 3.5 lakh people visited the show on Monday alone, earning a revenue of ₹90 lakh.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Iran denies role but justifies attack on Salman Rushdie

Former Supreme Leader had issued a fatwa against writer

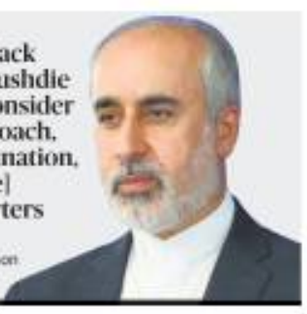
ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

An Iranian government official denied on Monday that Tehran was involved in the assault on author Salman Rushdie, though he justified the stabbing in remarks that represented the Islamic Republic's first public comments on the attack.

The comments by Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, came more than two days after the attack on Mr. Rushdie in New York. The writer has now been taken off a ventilator and is "on the road to recovery," according to his agent.

However, Iran has denied carrying out other operations abroad targeting dissidents in the years since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution, despite prosecutors and Western governments attributing such attacks to Tehran. And while Iran hasn't focused on the writer in recent years, a decades-old fatwa demanding his killing still stands.

> Regarding the attack against Salman Rushdie in America, we don't consider anyone deserving reproach, blame or even condemnation, except for [Mr. Rushdie] himself and his supporters
>
> NASSER KANAANI
> Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson



"Regarding the attack against Salman Rushdie in America, we don't consider anyone deserving reproach, blame or even condemnation, except for [Mr. Rushdie] himself and his supporters," Mr. Kanaani said.

"In this regard, no one can blame the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added. "We believe that the insults made and the support he received was an insult against followers of all religions."

Mr. Rushdie, 75, was stabbed on Friday while attending an event in western New York. He suffered a damaged liver and severed nerves in an arm and an eye, his agent Andrew Wylie said. Rushdie was likely to lose sight in the injured eye.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Country facing twin challenges of corruption and nepotism: PM

Misogyny needs to be combated too, says Modi

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Addressing the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on the 76th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India was entering a decisive phase in its war against corruption. Mr. Modi said nepotism and misogyny were some of the other big challenges that needed to be combated.

In his ninth consecutive speech from the Red Fort, Mr. Modi said it was a historic day for India and the completion of 75 years of Independence was a time to step towards a new direction with a new resolve.

"Our nation has proved that we have an inherent strength from our diversity and the common thread of patriotism makes India unshakeable," Mr. Modi said, as he termed India the "mother of democracy".

The Prime Minister also gave a call for setting big resolutions and spelled out "*Panch Pran*" (five resolves) to fulfil the dreams of freedom fighters for the country by 2047, the centenary of Independence.

Mr. Modi said Indians should focus on the five pledges – a resolve for a developed India, removing any trace of the colonial mindset, taking pride in our legacy, our strength of unity, and fulfilling the duties of citizens with honesty, which should be done by the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers as well.

Progress report: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Monday. • PTI

Mindset of slavery

"In no part of our mind or heart should there be any ounce of slavery," Mr. Modi said, elaborating how India's mindset should be completely decolonised.

"How long will the world continue to give certificates to us? Shall we not set our own standards? Can a country of 130 crore people not make an effort to exceed its standards?" he said, pointing to the New Education Policy (NEP) as one that would serve this purpose. Mr. Modi also said the country should be proud of every Indian language.

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SECURITY COVER FOR PM ▸ PAGE 9
FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES KEY TO TRANSFORMATION: CJI ▸ PAGE 8

Don't belittle freedom fighters: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A "self-obsessed" government seems determined on trivialising the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and belittling the glorious achievements of the past 75 years, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said in her Independence Day message on Monday.

Ms. Gandhi, who issued a statement, said the party would not allow leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Abul Kalam Azad to be put in the dock.

Her attack came a day after the BJP released a video that not only narrated its version of events that led to the Partition in 1947 but also targeted the top leadership of the Congress at the time and showed pictures of Nehru and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

On Sunday, the BJP government in Karnataka had also left out Nehru from a newspaper advertisement on freedom fighters.

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'GOVT. FAILED' ▸ PAGE 8

Prohibitory orders clamped in Shivamogga as tension grips city

Row over Savarkar's portrait; holiday declared for schools and colleges today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

The Independence Day celebrations which began on a happy note in Shivamogga on Monday morning ended with the district administration clamping prohibitory orders in the city in the evening, following tension over the display of Veer Savarkar's portrait at an intersection.

Amidst tension, a person was stabbed by unknown people in the city. A group of people had placed Savarkar's portrait at Shivappa Nayaka Circle in the city as part of the celebrations.

Security was beefed up in Shivamogga after tension prevailed in the city on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Another group wanted it to be removed. Both the groups entered into a heated argument. As a few went ahead and removed the portrait, the police intervened and dispersed the mob.

While the Hindutva group wanted the police to arrest those who removed the portrait, another group argued that Savarkar did not deserve to be included among freedom fighters.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 4

Metro sees heavy rush, traffic hit owing to Cong. rally

BENGALURU BUREAU
BENGALURU

Huge crowds thronged Namma Metro, while traffic was thrown out of gear in several parts due to the Congress rally at National College grounds on Monday.

Namma Metro saw huge rush as the Congress had bought 50,000 two-way tickets and 30,000 single-way tickets for party workers to travel. The party had deposited ₹25 lakh for the purchase of the tickets. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) officials said this was the first time bulk tickets were purchased in huge numbers.

In addition, the flower show at Lalbagh and people visiting IKEA showroom near Nagasandra metro station also added to the heavy footfall. Till 7.30 p.m on Monday, more than 4.8 lakh (including 1 lakh tokens purchased by Congress and 30,000+ at Lalbagh station for flower show) travelled in the metro.

Due to increased demand in the morning and evening hours, the BMRCL operated loop trains to clear the rush from R.V. Road to Sampige Road metro stations.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

11 Bilkis Bano case convicts walk out of jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Eleven convicts serving life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano case of the 2002 Gujarat riots walked out of Godhra sub-jail on Monday after the State government allowed their release under its remission policy.

The government had accepted the recommendation of a committee for the remission of their sentence after the Supreme Court directed the State to decide on merit a convict's petition seeking premature release.

The convicts had served more than 15 years in prison.

The 11 persons were awarded life imprisonment by a special CBI court in Mumbai in January 2008 on charges of gang-rape and murder of seven members of Bilkis Bano's family during the post-Godhra communal riots in the State. Ms. Bano survived the massacre.

Her case was one of the most important related to the 2002 riots. The probe was handed over to the CBI while the trial was shifted to Maharashtra at the instance of the top court.

The conviction by the trial court was upheld by the Bombay High Court.

"The State government had formed a committee a few months ago to decide on the remission of those convicted in the case. The committee took the unanimous decision in favour of remission of all the 11 convicts," a government official said.

Kin of martyrs will get govt. job, ₹25 lakh relief: CM

This was among the new decisions announced on I-Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced that dependents of martyred soldiers will get a government job and compensation of ₹25 lakh will be paid by the State government to them. This was among the new schemes announced by the Chief Minister during his Independence Day address after unfurling the national flag at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground on Monday.

The Chief Minister said that an order copy of government jobs to the children of the soldiers who sacrifice their life during war will be directly delivered at their doorsteps. The Chief Minister also made new announcements pertaining to sanitary, nutrition and welfare of labour class.

Other announcements include allocation of ₹250 crore to government schools to build toilets. The Chief Minister said that all government schools will have toilets facilities by next August. The State government has also decided to provide financial aid of ₹50,000 each to skilled labourers that include carpenters, weavers, potters, sculptors, blacksmiths and others . As many as 4,000 new anganwadis will be set up for providing nutritious food for the children of landless agricultural workers. Another major announcement made is extending benefits of the 'Raitha Vidhyanidhi' scheme to auto and taxi drivers, fishermen, weavers and others.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the Manekshaw Parade Grounds, in Bengaluru on Monday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

- Other announcements include allocation of ₹250 crore to government schools to build toilets.

On development initiatives taken up in the State, the Chief Minister said that GDP is growing at 9% and the State receives the highest FDI. He expressed the confidence of the State contributing $1 trillion to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of transforming India into $5 trillion economy. He added that six engineering colleges will be developed on the model of IIT, five cities will have infrastructure of international cities and irrigation projects will be completed in time.

Colourful celebration

After the outbreak of the pandemic, the celebration of Independence Day had remained a low-key affair for two years. However, the celebration of 76th Independence Day was a colourful event. Hundreds of school children participated in cultural events. A cultural show on 'Isuru Fight' enacting the freedom fight of people living in Isuru village of Shivamogga district in 1944 was one of the highlights. Tent pegging by ASC Centre and College, Best Physique Show by MEG and Centre and Combat Free Fall by the Para Regimental Training Center enthralled audience.

Due to poor weather conditions, instead of 10 paratroopers four participated. The paratroopers landed at the Parade Ground, they received rousing applause. The team was led by Brigadier Sunil Sheroan.

'WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN NEHRU' ▸ PAGE 4

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Suu Kyi's sentence

6 The number of years for which the Myanmar junta court has jailed Aung San Suu Kyi, extending the ousted leader's prison time to 17 years. Suu Kyi, 77, has been detained since the generals toppled her government in a coup on February 1 last year, ending the Southeast Asian country's brief period of democracy. She has since been hit with a series of charges, including violating the official secrets act, corruption and electoral fraud. She faces decades in jail if convicted on all counts. Many of her political allies have also been arrested since the coup. AFP

Naxals arrested

1,526 The number of Naxalites arrested over the past three years in Jharkhand during anti-naxal operations. The arrested Naxalites include one politburo member, one central committee member, three special area committee members, one regional committee member, 12 zonal commanders, 30 sub-zonal commanders and 61 area commanders. At least 51 Naxalites have been killed in encounters. A huge cache of arms and ammunition and about ₹159 lakh have also been seized. PTI

Credit growth

15 The percentage by which the State Bank of India (SBI) expects to sustain credit growth in the current fiscal with rising demand from retail and corporate borrowers despite hardening of the lending rate. The country's largest lender reported a 14.93% rise in advances to ₹29,00,636 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2022 as compared to ₹25,23,793 crore during the same period a year ago. With the latest rate hike by the RBI, the repo rate (short term lending rate at which banks borrow from the central bank) increased to 5.40%. PTI

Expanding NFSA

71 In lakh, the number of National Food Security Act (NFSA) card holders from all 250 taluks of Gujarat who will be given one kg gram (pulses) per card per month at a concessional rate, according to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The existing eligibility criteria of income limit per month for inclusion under the NFSA has been increased to ₹15,000 from ₹10,000. Mr. Patel also announced a 3% hike in the dearness allowance for government employees which will take the State's financial burden up by about ₹1,400 crore annually. PTI

Princely investments

500 In $ million, the amount invested by a firm controlled by Saudi Arabia's prince Alwaleed Bin Talal in three major Russian energy companies between February and March, regulatory filings showed. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have so far tried to maintain what they say is a neutral position on the war in Ukraine, frustrating some Western officials who have sought to isolate Russia over the invasion. By investing in Gazprom, Rosneft and Lukoil, the Kingdom was likely seeking undervalued assets. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh

What are the various unresolved issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan which has led to consistent ceasefire violations?

THE GIST

- The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains stalemated despite several ceasefire agreements. Both Baku and Yerevan claim absolute historic ownership of the region which is located within the boundaries of Azerbaijan but populated largely by ethnic Armenians.
- The major issues between the two countries include delimiting the border between them, the nature of new transportation corridors in the region, the future of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the transfer of prisoners of war and other detainees.
- The presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in the region has also become a matter of concern as their mandate is yet to be defined. The frustration over the peacekeeping forces has intensified due to their inaction in stopping ceasefire violations.

ABIGAIL MIRIAM FERNANDEZ

The story so far: The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the centre of three major wars and multiple clashes for decades. The recent flare-up began on August 3 after Azerbaijan claimed that it had captured the territory in Karabakh in a retaliatory campaign, after an Armenian attack killed one Azerbaijani soldier.

What happened?
The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains stalemated despite the several ceasefire agreements reached in the past. Both Baku and Yerevan claim absolute historic ownership of the region which is located within the boundaries of Azerbaijan but is populated largely by ethnic Armenians.

Following Azerbaijan's announcement of capturing Karabakh, the military in Nagorno-Karabakh disputed the claim and accused Azerbaijan of killing two soldiers, declaring a "partial mobilisation" in response to the clash. Armenia has called on the international community to help stop Azerbaijan's "aggressive actions" claiming that it continues its "policy of terror" against the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia has also accused Azerbaijan of breaking the ceasefire agreement of 2020 and claimed that it was "taking measures to stabilise the situation" with Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives.

What does the 2020 agreement say?
The nine-point agreement of November 10, 2020 was signed by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The agreement imposed an immediate ceasefire, a timeline for withdrawal from Azerbaijan's occupied regions, the introduction of Russian peacekeepers, and the need for new transport corridors. However, this failed to initiate a peace agreement because it altered the power balance between the two countries and lacked clarity on several issues resulting in the subsequent ceasefire violations on both sides.

Why are ceasefire agreements not working?
The recurring ceasefire violations have been triggered due to several unresolved issues. The major issues include delimiting the border between the two countries, the nature of new transportation corridors in the region, and the future of Nagorno-Karabakh and its current ethnic Armenian population.

First, the issue of delineating the shared international border. Following the 2020 agreement, a substantial amount of territory was handed over from Armenian Karabakh to Azerbaijan making the once soft border between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, a hard international border. However, Armenia and Azerbaijan have never agreed upon a boundary between them in the past and the 2020 ceasefire statement did not make it clear on how exactly the border should be drawn out.

Second, the dispute over transport routes. The overland route that goes from Stepanakert (a city within the Nagorno-Karabakh region) to Armenia has become an issue between the two countries. The 2020 agreement states that the parties should build an alternative road within three years, after which the Russian peacekeepers deployed along the current route would relocate to the new one. Presently, there is only one road which is the Lachin corridor, which runs past the outposts through Azerbaijan's mountainous Lachin region to Shusha, which Azerbaijani forces retook in the 2020 war. The construction of the road would allow Azerbaijan to take back control of Lachin city and surrounding areas. However, Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of stalling operations of laying its several-kilometre section of the new road.

Third, the difference over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The ethnically Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is also known as the Republic of Artsakh, has expressed frustration over Armenia's willingness to make concessions to Azerbaijan as part of a larger prospective peace settlement. While Armenia supports the aspirations for independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan seeks to preserve its national and territorial integrity.

According to the 2020 agreement, point one claims that the parties to the conflict must "stop in their current positions" while point four states that the Russian peacekeeping forces would be deployed concurrently with the withdrawal of the Armenian troops. However, the two sides interpret these points differently with Armenia stating that the first point allows them to keep their forces in Karabakh and that they have complied with the fourth point by withdrawing armed forces from the seven Azerbaijani districts around Karabakh. Conversely, Azerbaijan says that Armenian forces should have withdrawn from Karabakh as soon as the Russians were deployed on the ground, arguing that the force is illegal and has urged the Russian peacekeepers to disarm it.

Fourth, the dispute over the exchange of prisoners. According to the eighth point, the two sides were to exchange prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons, and dead bodies. While there has been a series of prisoner exchanges in the last two years, the Azerbaijan side still has many captives while Armenia has just a few.

What about the negotiations?
Since 2020, the negotiation process has been slow. The diplomatic initiative taken by Armenia and Azerbaijan has not yielded any substantial gains with both sides accusing each other of delaying negotiations. It was only in 2022, two years after the war, that the two leaders expressed their intention to discuss a peace plan for Nagorno-Karabakh. The two leaders met in Brussels during which Azerbaijan voiced its frustration that subsequent diplomacy has moved too slowly, claiming that Armenia was prolonging the negotiations with the aim of waiting for the geopolitical situation to change in their favour. Meanwhile, PM Pashinyan has received domestic criticism that he was preparing to compromise on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. Thus, the negotiations between the two countries are nowhere close to reaching a peace agreement.

What is Russia's role?
The presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in the region has also become a matter of concern. According to points three and four of the 2020 agreement, the Russian peacekeeping forces are to be deployed for five years making it the first time Russian troops were deployed on the ground in almost thirty years. However, their mandate is yet to be defined, questioning their presence in the region. Additionally, the frustration over the peacekeeping forces has intensified due to their inaction in stopping ceasefire violations.

Will the ceasefire hold?
While the 2020 agreement has the potential to open opportunities for new transport connections and economic cooperation, the discord between Armenia and Azerbaijan would hinder this process. Further, the agreement has been criticised for being biased. Apart from this, the agreement also fails to address unresolved issues between the two countries. Thus, until these lacunae are filled the recurring ceasefire violations are likely to continue.

Abigail Miriam Fernandez is a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

No end in sight: An unexploded rocket in the Nagorno-Karabakh region's main city of Stepanakert during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region on October 6, 2020. • AFP

EXPLAINER

The controversial visit of a Chinese vessel to Hambantota

What kind of ship is the Yuan Wang 5? Why is its presence in the Indian Ocean a cause of concern for India?

THE GIST

- On August 13, Sri Lanka approved the arrival of a Chinese satellite-tracking vessel to its Chinese-funded Hambantota port.
- India has expressed its concern over the Chinese vessel visit. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs' commented that India "carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests".
- China reacted strongly after they were asked to defer the vessel visit. Without directly referring to India, China said that it was "completely unjustified for certain countries to cite the so-called 'security concerns' to pressure Sri Lanka.".

MEERA SRINIVASAN

The story so far: On August 13, Sri Lanka approved the arrival of a Chinese satellite-tracking vessel to its southern Chinese-funded Hambantota port. It was the second approval from the island nation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after it first cleared the visit on July 12. In the weeks in between, India raised concerns over the ship's visit with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and officially commented on it, while Indian media splashed headlines of a "Chinese spy ship" hovering in the Indian Ocean. Caught in a delicate diplomatic and geopolitical spot, Colombo gave its nod after "extensive consultations" with "all parties".

What is the vessel?
Yuan Wang 5 was described by the Sri Lankan government as a "scientific research ship". The BRISL (Belt & Road Initiative Sri Lanka), a Colombo-based organisation studying China's ambitious connectivity project, was the first to draw attention to the visit in a Twitter post late July. It said that the Yuan Wang 5 will conduct "satellite control and research tracking in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean Region" through August and September. Vessels of the Yuan Wang class are said to be used for tracking and supporting satellite as well as intercontinental ballistic missiles by the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force.

How have different countries reacted?
India has expressed its concern over the Chinese vessel visit. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs commented twice on the issue. Addressing the weekly media conference in New Delhi, the official initially stated that India "carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests" and later said that they were "rejecting insinuations" that Sri Lanka was "pressured". After India raised the matter with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took it up with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry on the side-lines of the recent ASEAN summit in Cambodia. In a similar bilateral meeting in Phnom Penh, U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken too raised the issue with Mr. Sabry, *The Hindu* reliably learned from official sources in Colombo.

The Yuan Wang 5 vessel.

At the same forum, Mr. Sabry reportedly discussed the matter with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, sources said. An official statement said the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister firmly backed the 'One China Policy' that President Wickremesinghe earlier endorsed. The developments showed that Colombo was caught between the U.S. and India on the one hand, and China on the other. That too at a time when the Sri Lankan government is counting on all their support as the island nation, hit by a devastating economic crisis, embarks on debt restructuring ahead of a promised International Monetary Fund (IMF) package.

How did China respond?
China reacted strongly after Sri Lanka, following concerns voiced by India, requested China to defer the visit of the vessel "in light of the need for further consultations". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, "I have noted relevant reports and would like to stress two points. First, Sri Lanka is a transportation hub in the Indian Ocean. Scientific research vessels from various countries including China have made port calls in Sri Lanka for replenishment. China always exercises freedom of the high seas in accordance with the law and fully respects coastal countries' jurisdiction over scientific research activities in waters under their jurisdiction. Second, Sri Lanka is a sovereign country. It has the right to develop relations with other countries based on its development interests. To have normal cooperation is the independent choice made by our two countries. It serves the shared interests of both sides and does not target any third party." Without directly referring to India, he added that it was "completely unjustified for certain countries to cite the so-called 'security concerns' to pressure Sri Lanka."

What is Sri Lanka's stand?
Sri Lanka's Foreign Affairs Ministry said: "having considered all material in place, on 13 August 2022 the clearance to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was conveyed for the deferred arrival of the vessel from 16-22 August 2022." The announcement meant that the controversial vessel visit, earlier scheduled for August 11, was effectively postponed by five days, while its week-long duration remained as was earlier planned.

The developments were "in light of certain concerns raised with the Ministry", it said, without naming India in its statement. Sri Lanka's popular weekend newspaper *Sunday Times* reported that the U.S. and Indian envoys were asked to provide "concrete reasons" for their objections. "Not satisfied with the reasons being sufficient to refuse entry to the Chinese vessel, the Government decided to inform the Chinese embassy in Colombo to inform the ship to continue its journey to Hambantota," a news report published on August 14 said.

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Career Guidance Program for School Students

Way to SUCCESS
CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

SPEAKER
Mr.Jayaprakash.A.Gandhi
Educational Analyst and Career Consultant
16th August 2022
10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Venue: NEC Auditorium

சிலையும் நீயே ..!!!
சிற்பியும் நீயே ..!!!
Career Guidance Conclave

SPEAKER
Mr.Ashwin.R
Educational Consultant
17th August 2022
10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Venue: NEC Auditorium

Registration link: https://forms.gle/u1qamYuN4hPKxy4i6

For Details : 9486486281,9500400682,7305355923,9843953785,8072537136

Free bus rides put a smile on faces of passengers

BMTC's 25th anniversary gift sees many takers, including first-time passengers

PRERANA KULKARNI
SHUVAM ROY
LEESHA K. NAIR
BENGALURU

Passengers wait to board a BMTC bus in Bengaluru on Monday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

"I got to know about the free bus service through the newspaper. Although I have stayed in Bengaluru for many years, I have never seen the airport. I don't travel that much, but today was a nice opportunity since the ride is free. I can visit the airport and come back," said H.S. Parvathi, a former teacher, who was riding on the airport bus service.

Twenty-five years ago, on August 15, 1997, the then Bangalore Transport Service (BTS), which was part of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), turned into a corporation and was named the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). To mark the occasion, the BMTC offered free services across the board on Monday.

Passengers were thrilled by the initiative and came with their family and friends to avail themselves of the free ride. The free services covered all ordinary, AC, and special Volvo buses that are run by the BMTC.

"It's amazing to not have to drive to my workplace today. I am usually very exhausted by the time I reach my office, so it is nice to be able to relax and commute," said Gagan, who said he had travelled by bus for the first time.

A majority of them heard about the free ride through the news and a few had a pleasant surprise when the conductor did not ask them to pay the fare.

> **I did not know anything about the free service because I'm not from here. I'm on my way to Tumakuru and while getting the ticket, the conductor made me aware of this service**
>
> RAJENDRA,
> Travelling from Vasanthnagar to Tumakuru

> **The BMTC has taken this day to celebrate its 25th anniversary and to provide everyone a free ride today. We are not collecting money from anyone. We are actually guiding them and making them aware about the service**
>
> MAHESH,
> Bus conductor

"I am happy to be able to help poor people reach their destination for free," said a bus driver, Basappa.

The buses were filled with people who also carried the tricolour to celebrate Independence Day. The crowds were a mix of first-time BMTC users as well as regular commuters.

"My parents stay here, so whenever I travel from Delhi, I tend to travel by bus because it's more economical. It's ₹1,400 for a cab and ₹250 for a bus. It was a lot more crowded than usual, probably because it was free. I didn't know that the ride was free, but then I was happy that it was, as I saved some money," said Agrima Khanna, a student from Delhi.

"Not these many people travel every day. It's only today that I have seen such a crowd. I called passengers at bus stops asking them to board because it was a free ride. I don't think it should happen every day, but I felt happy to have a day of rest," said Shailaja C.N., conductor of a KIA-9 bus.

BMTC officials said that the free services were received well. On certain routes in the city limits, the buses were running packed. The corporation operated more than 5,300 services including those to the airport.

This collector preserves snapshots of history

City businessman has built up a unique collection of items related to Indian Independence

Some of the items in the collection of Jayaprakash Sarda from Shanthinagar. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Businessman Jayaprakash Sarda's house in Shanthinagar holds a special treasure trove unlike any other – invaluable items related to the Indian independence and freedom fighters.

Collected over three decades, he boasts of having stamps issued by 125 countries on Mahatma Gandhi, 10,000 newspapers and 1,000 magazines from pre-independence, and letters by leaders of the freedom movement. The highest number of items in the collection are related to Gandhiji and Subhas Chandra Bose.

Mr. Sarda told *The Hindu*, "I started collecting articles 35 years ago. The passion kept on growing and in the late '90s, I started collecting medals, newspapers, and photographs, and over time, I developed a passion for India as a country and started collecting items on the freedom fighters and Indian independence".

This has resulted in a set of newspapers from 1857, a rare crockery set given to VIP members of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) session in 1931, over 354 original photographs of Gandhiji, 75 original photographs of Bose and other freedom fighters, among others.

Mr. Sarda says a charkha used by Gandhiji is a prized possession. A rare possession in his collection is an original copy of an advertisement for Orient Fan, featuring Bose. He also has a full-page advertisement featuring Sarojini Naidu.

He also has several silver coins with the images of Gandhiji, a rare handkerchief with the images of Gandhiji, Winston Churchill, and Adolf Hitler, a biscuit box with Gandhiji's image, among others.

He has shown his collection over 150 times in many colleges in the State.

"I want to set up a small museum, where anyone can visit, and which will showcase the history of India. We have inherited a great culture. My elder brother has been very instrumental in helping me financially and otherwise. I will appeal to my daughter and my brother's daughters to take care of it, so that it remains for the later generation," he added.

Techie dies while hoisting national flag

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A 33-year-old software engineer died, after falling from the terrace while hoisting the national flag at his house in Hennur on Sunday.

The Hennur police said the engineer, identified as Vishwas Kumar, a native of Dakshina Kannada district, was working in a private firm in Bengaluru. "He fell from the second-floor terrace while tying the flag on a pole on Sunday afternoon. The victim was living in the same house in HBR Layout along with his family, which includes his wife, a two-year-old daughter, and his parents," the police said.

The family, with the help of neighbours, rushed him to the nearest private hospital, but he was reported dead due to multiple injuries. An unnatural death report was filed by the Hennur police.

Shivananda Circle flyover partially opened to traffic

'Work is going on and we have opened this stretch only as part of a trial run'

The Shivananda Circle flyover project was conceived in 2011 • K. MURALI KUMAR

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Monday opened one stretch of the Shivananda Circle steel flyover for the public as a trial run.

Earlier, the civic body decided to open the flyover on August 15, but after the recent rains, asphalting work on the stretch had not been completed.

"The stretch between Seshadripuram to Race Course side has been opened to decongest traffic under the flyover. The work is still going on and we have only opened this stretch as part of the trial run," said Lokesh, Chief Engineer, Projects, BBMP, said.

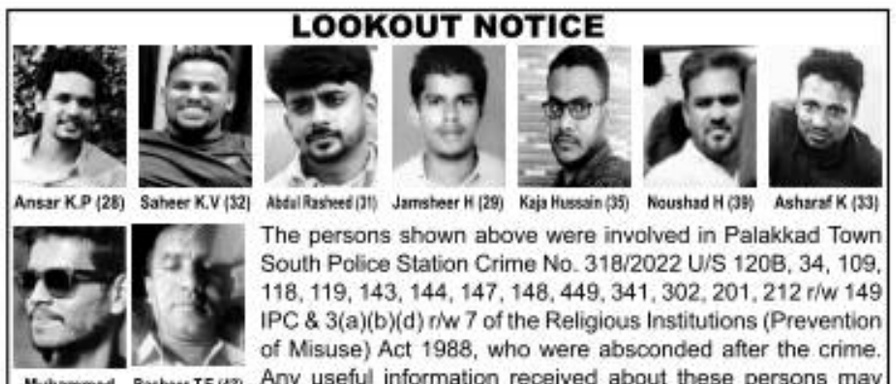
After building the skeleton of the flyover, the BBMP ran into land acquisition problems, grounding the project. It had to acquire 500 sqm of land towards the Seshadripuram railway underpass and this ran into legal challenges.

Days before the project was to be completed in November 2021, the BBMP opted for a design change to make do with the available land.

The flyover project was conceived in 2011 and the State Cabinet approved ₹19.8 crore in 2017. Later, the project cost shot up to ₹39.5 crore as the earlier planned 326-metre flyover had to be extended to 492.84 metres.

If everything is done on time, the civic body plans to get Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to inaugurate the flyover. Mr. Lokesh clarified that the flyover may be opened to the public officially by the end of this month.

LOOKOUT NOTICE



Ansar K.P (28) Saheer K.V (32) Abdul Rasheed (31) Jamsheer H (29) Kaja Hussain (35) Noushad H (38) Asharaf K (33)

Muhammed Hakeem (25) Basheer T.E (43)

The persons shown above were involved in Palakkad Town South Police Station Crime No. 318/2022 U/S 120B, 34, 109, 118, 119, 143, 144, 147, 148, 449, 341, 302, 201, 212 r/w 149 IPC & 3(a)(b)(d) r/w 7 of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act 1988, who were absconded after the crime. Any useful information received about these persons may please be intimated to your nearest police station or phone numbers mentioned below.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Narcotic Cell, Palakkad - 9497990093
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Palakkad - 9497990095
Station House Officer Palakkad Town South PS. - 9497987146
Palakkad Town South PS. - 0491 2537368

RO/02000/F2/2022/I&PRD

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nikkita Thimmaiah D/o P B Thimmaiah, R/o: #3549, 3rd Cross, Service Road, Hal 2 Nd Stage Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560008, changed my name to Nikitha Thimmaiah for all purposes.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

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Interested candidate please send the resume to
E-mail: hr.hsn@sparshhospital.com
Mob: 6364836441

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE COURT OF ADJ-III, KALLAKURICHI
MCOP NO: 373/2021

Kannan
S/o Chinnasamy, 2/7,Main Road
Nagalur Village & PO
Kallakurichi TK & DT
Tamilnadu - Petitioner
-VS
1.Neelesh
S/o Muniraj 624 Ramasamy bldg
hoody village Thigalarapalya
Mahadevpura (PO)
Bangalore-560 048
Karnataka - Respondent

Notice to 1st Respondent

Take notice that the above petitioner had filed motor claim case against you & 1 other, the accident occurred on 18.10.2020 and thereby your vehicle bearing Reg No:KA 01 EN 4051 were involved in that accident.

Your appearance is posted for 26.08.2022 at 10.30 AM. You are requested to appear either in person (or) through advocate in the above hearing Hon'ble Court and subsequent hearing. On failing which, the matter will be heared and decided as expartee in your absence.

P.RAJAVEL, B.Com.,B.L.,
Advocate
No.13, Katchery Road,
Kallakurichi-606 202.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Shashidhar.K S/o.Kariyanna, Aged about 39 years and Mrs.V.N.Shilpa W/o. Mr.Shashidhar.K, Aged about 37 years both are residing at Thimmanahalli Village, Hulikunte Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District-572113 has LOST THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 03.02.2009, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT No. DSP-1-05541-2008-09 OF B09K-I, STORED IN CD NO.DSPD39, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB REGISTRAR OFFICE, DASANAPURA & ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 28.01.2012, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.DSP-1-00280-2011-12 OF BOOK-I STORED IN CD NO.DSPD109, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB REGISTRAR OFFICE, DASANAPURA LOST AT GANGONDANAHALLI VILLAGE BUS STOP, ON 30.06.2022, BETWEEN 11AM TO 11.30 AM. A Complaint is lodged in online dated 15.08.2022 vide Lost Report bearing No.0292895/2022. Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.739, 3rd Floor, 9th Cross,
Near Bhashyam Circle, 5th Block, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore -560 010 Land line: 080-48520073

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client Mrs. C. AYESHA, Aged about 49 Years, W/o. Mr. C.Abdul Gafoor, Residing at: Flat No.102, B Block, 1st Floor, Tetra Grand Green Planet, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli,, Bangalore560064, intended to Purchase the schedule Property from its owners Mrs. RASHMI.R.U, Aged about 36 Years, W/o. Mr. Mallikarjuna.K.B, and Mr. MALLIKARJUNA.K.B, S/o. Late. Basavarajappa, both are Residing at: Flat No.B-205, Amrutha Grandeur Apartment, Rachenahalli Main Road, Rachenahalli, Bangalore-560077 which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within Seven (7) days from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Site No.166, Khatha SL No.383, Old House List Khatha No.1478/A, previously khatha No.1465, converted survey No.93/5, converted for residential purposes vide its order No.BDS.ALN.SR(E)188/2002-03, Dated: 27-01-2003, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Situated at Thanisandra Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Now Comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.06, Measuring East to West 45 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in total Measuring 1350 Square feet, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded by:-

East by : Private Property,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.165,
South by : Site No.167,

T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank,
Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram,
Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 13-08-2022

FORM No. INC-25A
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Conversion of Public Company into a Private Company
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
South East Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s. CYBER PARK DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION LIMITED having its registered office at Plot No.76 & 77, 5th Floor, Electronic City Phase-I, Doddathogur, Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560 100 (Applicant).

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 11th July, 2022 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, South East Region, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Dileep Kumar Pendurty
Director | DIN: 02070298

Complete address of Registered Office:
Plot No.76 & 77, 5th Floor, Electronic City Phase-I, Doddathogur, Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560 100.

Complete address of Regional Director,
South East Region: 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/LO/TEN/02/2022-23 Dated: 12.08.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER

The Chief Law Officer, BDA invites tenders through e-procurement portal (**https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**) in two tender document system on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru (Client) from eligible Legal Consultants for the **Consultancy Services detailed below: Consultancy Services for providing Professional advisory legal services for regulation, timely compliance and prosecution, monitoring of court cases, co-ordination with officers of different sections and communication with panel advocates and other allied legal services by setting up resident professional Legal Cell in BDA, Bengaluru to (1) North and East Zone-Package-1.**EMD: **Rs. 1.00 Lakh. (2) South and West Zone-Package-2.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 Lakh. Calendar of Events: (1)** Date of downloading the Proposal Documents: **16.08.2022. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of queries: **20.08.2022 up to 16.00 Hours. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-Proposal conference: **22.08.2022 at 15.00 Hours. (4)** Place of Pre-proposal conference: **Office of the Chief Law Officer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. (5)** Last date and time for receipt of Proposal: **01.09.2022 up to 16.00 Hours. (6)** Time and date of opening of First Electronic Document (Technical Proposal): **03.09.2022 at 16.30 Hours. (7)** Place of opening of First Electronic Document : **Office of the Chief Law Officer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. (8)** Time and date of opening of Second Electronic Document (Financial Proposal) : **Will be intimated to the Qualified Consultants.** For Details, Registration, Terms & Conditions visit e-procurement portal of GoK or Contact: **e-Procurement helpdesk: 080-46010000/68948777**

Sd/- Chief Law Officer, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/TN/14/2022-23

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)
No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/22-23/2893-98 Date: 12.08.2022

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following works **on Total Turn Key Basis** .

1). Bid Enquiry No.: **SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/TTK/110kV Modification LILO Toranagallu S/C line (Hazardous Locations of Schools & Colleges) Date: 14.07.2022_Call-2.** Tender for the Work of Modification by increasing the Vertical Clearance of the existing 110kV LILO line Toranagallu D/C line in the premises of Government High School Toranagallu Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in TL&SS Division Munirabad.

2). Bid Enquiry No.: **SEE/Tr. (W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/TTK/110kV Modification Tap Line Kurugodu (Hazardous Locations of Schools & Colleges) Date: 18.07.2022_Call-2.** Tender for the work Modification by increasing the vertical clearance in the existing 110kV Tap line to Kurugod S/C line on D/C towers from Location number between 45 & 48 in the premises of Government High School Badanahatti Village, Kurgod Taluk, Ballari District in TL&SS Division KPTCL, Munirabad.

3). Bid Enquiry No.: **SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/TTK/220kV Intermediate Tower @ 220kV Lingapura-JVSL DC line (Hazardous Locations of Schools & Colleges) Date: 18.07.2022_Call-2.** Tender for the work of providing intermediate tower for remove the hazardous location in 220kV Lingapura - JVSL DC line between location number 134 and 135 to remove the hazardous line passing over the Government High School Toranagallu village, in Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in TL & SS Division KPTCL, Munirabad.

4). Bid Enquiry No.: **SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/TTK/220kV Strengthening of 220kV Lingapura-Guddadahalli D/C line (Hazardous Locations of Schools & Colleges) Date: 18.07.2022_Call-2.** Tender for the Work of Strengthening of existing 220kV Lingapura - Guddadahalli D/C line in the school premises Government Higher Primary School, Lingadadhalli Village Koppala Taluk & District in TL & SS Division KPTCL, Munirabad.

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiries in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.08.2022** at **11:00Hrs.** details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad - 583 233.
Phone No.: **08539-270094.**

CACHE

Big Tech's talent conundrum

The hiring freeze at Big Tech, tight money supply from VCs to start-ups, and a gloomy macro-economic environment could bring tech jobs and talent to an equilibrium point where demand meets supply

THE GIST

- The pandemic's effect on jobs was far-reaching. The ILO report titled 'Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the crisis towards a human-centred future of work', estimates the pandemic to have wiped out some 81 million jobs in 2020 compared to pre-crisis trends.
- Hiring tech talent is not easy. Start-ups flush with cash from venture capital (VCs) lure tech talent to join their ventures. Representation of Fortune 500 companies, including Big Tech firms, fell 25% in the tech job universe as start-ups, unicorns, newly-listed public companies and non-tech companies increased their hiring for tech roles.
- Despite the pains to build a talent bench, top tech firms are now hitting the brakes on hiring. The hiring re-think comes at a time when VCs are tightening their purse strings due to geopolitical, supply chain and economic uncertainty.

JOHN XAVIER

At the end of 2019, Big Tech firms were hungry for talent. Google, in its annual report, said it increased the number of employees by nearly 23% to 1,18,899. The search giant noted it would onboard more engineers and product managers to run its services. The company was also keen on bulking up its sales team to grow cloud business. Other top tech firms too sought to increase their employee numbers. But COVID-19 upended the global economy, making several businesses re-draw their strategies and change course. Many companies had to let their employees go. About 20 million workers lost their jobs in the U.S. alone. Half of those cuts occurred in the last two weeks of March 2020, the period when several countries enforced lockdowns to protect their citizens from getting infected by COVID-19.

Job lay-offs in the pandemic

The pandemic's effect on jobs was far-reaching. In the Asia-Pacific region, millions of people were asked to work reduced hours or for no hours at all. Overall, working hours in the region decreased by an estimated 15.2% in the second quarter and by 10.7% in the third quarter of 2020, relative to pre-crisis levels, according to a 2020 report by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO report titled 'Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the crisis towards a human-centred future of work', estimates the pandemic to have wiped out some 81 million jobs in 2020 compared to pre-crisis trends. It noted that an additional 22-25 million employed persons were pushed into extreme poverty, making them live on less than $1.90 per person per day. A large proportion of these jobs were low-wage earning employments; service-providing sectors like leisure, travel and hospitality were worst hit. For instance, about 16.1 million of the nearly 20 million jobs lost by workers in the U.S. in March 2020 were in the hospitality sector.

Sizing up the market

But jobs that let people work from home had a longer runway. According to estimates by ILO, prior to the pandemic, only 8% workers worldwide worked from home on a permanent basis. That size has grown exponentially since then. The multi-lateral organisation's labour force survey suggested that in the second quarter of 2020, approximately 17% of the world's employed population were working from home. That is about 560 million workers.

Separately, Internet-savvy consumers who chat, share videos and shop online using e-commerce platforms and social media apps extended their usage time. So, the few billion consumers and half-billion workers became an important market for large tech firms to sell their products and services. And to grease the wheels of digital commerce, they went scouting for people who can code, sell and put digital stuff on the cloud.

According to estimates by ILO, prior to the pandemic, only 8% workers worldwide worked from home permanently. That size has grown exponentially since then.

Google stuck to its pre-pandemic year hiring pace, and increased its total headcount to 1,74,014 as of June 30. The search giant is not alone. Microsoft, which shares its annual report in the middle of every year, nearly doubled its headcount to 2,21,000 between July 2018 and June 2022. While Facebook's total headcount jumped 60% between end of 2019 and 2021, the social media firm's total employee count was less than half of Microsoft or Google's. Amazon, the giant in the Big Tech pack, said it employs about 1.6 million full-time and part-time employees as of December 31, 2021.

A hard nut to crack

Hiring tech talent was not easy. In 2021, tech job postings in the U.S. nearly doubled while the average number of applicants shrunk by 25%. There were 6.5 times more IT job openings than talent to fill them, according to recruiting analytics firm Datapeople.

According to a survey of over 500 developers by Stack Overflow, 25% of developers were actively seeking a new job, while 54% said they were passively open to new opportunities. And when considering a new role, 65% cited pay as the biggest reason for jumping ship. In a survey of 5,500 professionals by Adobe, nearly 35% respondents said they planned to switch jobs in the next year. Among Gen Z respondents, the likelihood of switching jobs was 21 percentage points higher.

At the other end of the spectrum, start-ups flush with cash from venture capital (VCs) lured tech talent to join their ventures. Representation of Fortune 500 companies, including Big Tech firms, fell 25% in the tech job universe as start-ups, unicorns, newly-listed public companies and non-tech companies increased their hiring for tech roles. It is therefore, no wonder that tech firms tried different ways to attract talent. Some companies even posted jobs without explicit degree requirements from candidates. Such postings grew almost 25% last year. But top tech firms still prefer Master's Degree or an MBA more than ever with 25% more of their jobs asking for them.

Hitting the brakes

Despite taking the pains to build a bulky talent bench, top tech firms are now hitting the brakes on hiring.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai told employees in July that the company would reduce the pace of its recruiting efforts for the rest of the year. Microsoft has said that it would remove several listed job openings. Apple has also said it will slow its hiring for the rest of the year as it prepares to weather a potentially tough economic climate. The iPhone maker has 1,54,000 employees as of September. Amazon, the biggest tech employer, said back in April that it was going to slow its hiring as it is overstaffed.

The hiring re-think comes at a time when VCs are tightening their purse strings due to geopolitical, supply chain and economic uncertainty. They are now more selective in their bets, with a strong focus on fintech and cleantech, according to a quarterly report on venture funding by KPMG.

"With valuations declining, many tech companies performing poorly on the public markets, and no end in sight to the level of geopolitical uncertainty, notwithstanding other challenges facing the VC market globally, we're starting to see investors instructing their portfolio companies to preserve cash." said Jonathan Lavender, Global Head, KPMG Private Enterprise, KPMG International, commenting on the venture pulse report.

The hiring freeze at Big Tech, tight money supply from VCs to start-ups, and a gloomy macro-economic environment could bring tech jobs and talent to an equilibrium point where demand meets supply. Perhaps, the September ending quarter will shed more light on it. But, until then Big Tech firms that gobbled up human resources in the last two years can sit tight and re-prioritise where to deploy their new hires.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Speak now or forever hold your tongue!

Keep practising and soon enough you will also have a silver-tongue!

S. UPENDRAN

"It was a brilliant lecture! Prof. Rao is a wonderful speaker."

"Yes, the man has always been known for his silver tongue."

"Silver tongue! What are you talking about?"

"When you say that someone has a silver tongue, you're suggesting that the individual is an eloquent speaker. He's someone who is good at persuading others to change their opinion and accept his point of view."

"In other words, he's good at convincing others."

"Exactly! Here's an example.

Unlike my father, I can't get people to do what I want them to. I don't have a silver tongue like he did."

"That's true! How about this example?

The salesman used his silver tongue to get the customer to buy something that he didn't intend to."

"Sounds good. The expression can also be used as an adjective.

The silver-tongued lawyer convinced the jury that his client was innocent."

"Most lawyers and politicians I know are silver-tongued. How was the meeting yesterday?"

"It just went on and on. There were moments when I felt like screaming."

"Why didn't you? You should have just told your colleagues to shut up!"

"Frankly, that's what I wanted to do. But luckily, common sense prevailed. I told myself to hold my tongue."

"Hold your tongue? Does it mean to remain silent?"

"That's right! But this informal expression when said angrily can mean 'shut up' as well.

Hold your tongue, young man! That's no way to talk to your elders."

"How about this example?

When the student started using abusive language, I told him to hold his tongue."

"Sounds good. The expression can also be used to make suggestions as well – that the person should stop talking. If he doesn't, he could end up saying something he might regret later on."

"In other words, the person should be careful and not speak his mind."

"I guess you could say that.

Perhaps this is not a good time to raise the issue with the Manager. So, hold your tongue regarding the matter when talking to her."

"*Every time Naresh talks about some religious issue, I choose to hold my tongue. I just don't want to get into a heated argument.*"

"That's a good example. We must all learn to hold our tongue."

"Especially your friend, Sujatha!"

"What is it with the two of you? You're always arguing."

"She's the one who starts it. Yesterday, I was telling her that my most favourite movie is *Gladiator*, and she started laughing. Said that 'most favourite' is wrong. Is it true?"

"One can usually talk about something being the 'least favourite' thing to do, but not the 'most favourite'. This is because the word 'favourite' carries with it the sense of 'most'. Dictionaries define 'favourite' as 'best liked or most enjoyed'."

"And since 'most' is implied, there's no need to add it before 'favourite'. Is that what you're saying?"

"That's right! But the fact is, there are many people, including many native speakers of English, who say 'most favourite'. You often hear people talk about their most favourite restaurant or movie."

"Then, there's nothing wrong in saying 'most favourite'!"

"You can probably get away with it in informal contexts."

I'm waiting with bated breath to hear that silver tongue of yours.

Jodie B. Cooper
upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

As we complete 75 years of independence, here is a quiz on India with a focus on its biodiversity and heritage

1 Out of the 40 World Heritage Sites located in India, one site is of a mixed type. What is it a mix of? Which is the one mixed-type site in India? In which State is it located?

2 When was the first stamp of Independent India issued? What is the stamp? There is a slogan mentioned on the stamp, what is it and where is it located?

3 The Reserve Bank of India issued a series of denominations of coins in 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2019. Name all the four types of series. Which is the latest commemorative coin issued and when?

4 This is a card game, a type of playing card that is often associated with Persia and India. These cards are circular or rectangular, and traditionally hand-painted by artisans. These cards also have the geographical indication (GI) tag. Name the cards and the place where it is from? Also mention, the first GI-tagged product in India.

5 This is a serpentine dragon god associated with the State of Manipur in India. What is it called? What is the name of the mythology in which this dragon is present?

◄ Identify the flower. These flowers are found in one of the biodiversity hotspots on Nicobar Island. Name the hotspot.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the August 12 edition of the daily quiz: 1. If sirenians are one of the two closest extant relatives to elephants, this is the other. **Ans: (Rock) Hyraxes**
2. This is how one determines, looking at the trunk, if an elephant is African or Asian. **Ans: The African elephant has two finger-like extensions at the tip of the trunk, while the Asian has only one**
3. Tusks are a modified form of this type of teeth. **Ans: Second incisors in the upper jaw. Tusks are also called Ivory**
4. The traditional Indian terms for a seat on the back of an elephant and the person who 'drives' the animal. **Ans: Howdah and Mahout**
5. Elephant cows are normally pregnant for this long: **Ans: African elephants are pregnant for an average of 22 months, while for Asian elephants, it's 18 to 22 months**
6. The Carthaginian commander who is known for crossing the Alps from Spain into Italy with 37 elephants. **Ans: Hannibal**
7. The first Elephant reserve in India. **Ans: Singhbhum in Jharkhand**
8. This Hindi box office hit of 1971 was a film starring Rajesh Khanna who had four elephants for company. **Ans: *Haathi Mere Saathi***
9. The 'Me at the zoo' video that features elephants from the San Diego zoo is special for this reason. **Ans: It is the first-ever YouTube video**
Visual: This famous elephant once part of P.T. Barnum's circus was the inspiration for *Dumbo*. **Ans: Jumbo**

Early Birds: Adya Upasana Routray| Falguni Chaturvedi

Compiled by: Sindhu Nagaraj

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 16	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:40
RISE 22:07	SET 09:56
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 17	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:40
RISE 22:47	SET 10:46
THURSDAY, AUG. 18	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:39
RISE 23:28	SET 11:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain or thundershower is a chance at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be mostly dry Day will be slight wrm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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I-Day celebrated at Idgah maidan amidst tight security

Assistant Commissioner M.G. Shivanna hoisted the national flag; over 850 police personnel were deployed to guard the ground

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Amid tight security, for the first time, the national flag was hoisted at the hotly contested Idgah maidan in Chamarajpet, Bengaluru on Monday.

Assistant Commissioner M.G. Shivanna hoisted the flag, where Bengaluru Central MP P.C. Mohan, and Chamarajpet MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan were present at the event. The event went on peacefully with around 850 police personnel guarding the ground.

According to Laxman B. Nibargi, DCP (West), who was present at the event, over 850 police personnel, including Rapid Action Force commandos and eight platoons of Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), have been deployed at the grounds, and high security will be present around the ground for the full day. The city police have also reportedly put the ground under constant surveillance of over 100 CCTV cameras.

The State government had directed the Assistant Commissioner of Bengaluru North to hoist the national flag and celebrate Independence Day at Idgah maidan after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently declared the Revenue Department as the default owner of the land.

After the event, Mr. Zameer Ahmed Khan said, "I am happy that the national flag has been hoisted at the Idgah maidan today. Two months ago, when the ground was under the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, I had announced that I will celebrate and hoist the national flag in the maidan for Independence Day and Republic Day. I also announced earlier that the Karnataka flag will also be hoisted for Kannada Rajyotsava on November 1".

Meanwhile, some right-wing organisations gathered near the ground and celebrated the event by shouting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" slogans. Students from Chamarajpet Government School performed cultural activities at the event.

Earlier, Revenue Minister R. Ashok said that Revenue Department owns the maidan, and it would decide on allowing any kind of activity, including the Ganesh festival, on August 31.

The impasse between the BBMP and the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf over the embattled maidan saw a breakthrough on August 6 with the civic body, dismissing the petition filed by the Waqf Board for a khata in its favour, declared the Karnataka Revenue Department to be the default owner of the land.

The land ownership dispute, which erupted in May-June this year, saw the BBMP initially claiming that the maidan was a civic property, while Muslim organisations argued that the land was a gazetted wakf property.

Pending a resolution, the BBMP had clarified that no official permission would be given for any event on the ground, including those sought by Hindutva organisations to conduct activities on Independence Day.

The tricolour being hoisted at Idgah maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru on Monday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Amazing and colourful

Various events were held as part of Indeependence Day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade Grounds on Monday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

With record revenue of ₹3.3 crore in 10 days, Lalbagh Flower Show ends with a bang

Over 3.5 lakh people visited it on Monday alone

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 212th flower show held at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden since August 5, on account of the 75th Independence Day, ended on Monday with record turnouts.

The crowd, visitors claimed, was uncontrollable, as over 3.5 lakh people visited the show on Monday alone, earning a revenue of ₹90 lakh.

Lalbagh authorities said they were able to issue tickets only for 60% of the people, and the remaining got free entry.

The Horticulture Department had spent ₹2.3 crore on the flower show and earned ₹3.3 crore in 10 days, the highest collection in the history of the show.

Fact sheet
- Monday's visitors: 2,99,176
- Revenue collected on Monday: ₹90,50,790
- Total visitors in 10 days: 8,34,552
- Total amount collected: ₹3.31 crore

M. Jagadish, Joint Director, Horticulture Department, told *The Hindu*, "This year's flower show is historic.

On Monday, more than 3.5 lakh people visited the venue. It is the highest-ever number in the history of the flower show for a single day".

Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, four consecutive shows were cancelled in the last two years. After the Republic Day show in 2020, this is the first flower show, which was organised in collaboration with the State Horticulture Department and the Mysore Horticulture Society.

With the BMTC offering free bus rides on Monday, people took advantage of it and flocked to the venue.

In addition, many people who came for the Independence Day programmes also came to Lalbagh. The glass house and the ticket counters were crowded with spectators. There was traffic jam on the roads around Lalbagh.

There were also a record number of children. "On the last day, there were about 30,000 to 40,000 children who hoisted flags in schools and they came directly to Lalbagh.

Apart from this, about 30,000 children bought tickets and watched the show. Free entry was provided for children of Classes I to X," said M. Kuppuswamy, Director, Mysore Horticulture Society.

Although, there was free BMTC bus services, many came to the show in private vehicles, resulting in vehicles being parked on the roadside near the Siddapur gate and HOPCOMS shop.

Vehicles were also parked besides Mavalli Road and R.V. Road. There was also traffic jams near Hosur Road, Jayanagar, Minerva Circle, J.C. Road, and Double road gates.

However, the government decided not to extend the show. Muniratna, Horticulture Minister, said, "We dedicated the 212th flower show to veteran actors Dr. Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar. Spectators arrived beyond our expectations. There has been a good response from the public, but it will not be extended".

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www.thehindu.com

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 16, Tuesday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** Why the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unresolved? bit.ly/azerarmi
- **Explained |** Why is the visit of a Chinese vessel to Sri Lanka's Hambantota port controversial? bit.ly/chinhanban
- **Cache |** Big Tech's talent conundrum bit.ly/techhiringtel

Online exclusives:
- **Watch |** 75 years of Independence: the India story bit.ly/indestory
- **India at 75 |** Looking back, looking ahead... bit.ly/indiafull
- **Read |** How were the States formed and how has the Indian map changed since 1947? bit.ly/statesformed
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

THE HINDU
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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RM No. KAREMG/1978/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Cong. takes out mega 'Freedom March' in a show of strength

A host of senior party leaders participate in the seven-km-long march

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Congress on Monday took out a mega 'Freedom March' in Bengaluru to commemorate 75 years of Independence with nearly a lakh people participating from various districts of the State.

The march, which was led by KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, saw the participation of senior leaders, including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, AICC general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, MP D.K. Suresh, former State unit president Dinesh Gundu Rao, MLAs, MLCs, and office-bearers of districts unit.

Congress workers take part in the 'Freedom March' led by party leader D.K. Shivakumar from Sangolli Rayanna statue to National College grounds in Bengaluru on Monday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

The approximately seven-km-long march, which commenced from Sangolli Rayanna's statue near the Bengaluru City Railway Station, passed through major routes including Anand Rao Circle, Freedom Park, Corporation, Town Hall, Minerva Circle, V.V. Puram, and culminated in a public meeting at the National College ground at Basavanagudi in almost four hours. Leaders wearing t-shirts and caps held national flags and shouted patriotic slogans. National flags were placed all across the way to the National College ground, where a cultural programme was organised.

The party organised the march to create public awareness about the sacrifices made by freedom fighters, Mr. Shivakumar told media persons. The event is seen as a show of strength by the Congress ahead of State Assembly elections scheduled next year.

"We feel proud while hoisting our national flag. The Congress party leaders and our forefathers Dadabhai Navarojii, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Subhash Chandra Bose fought for an egalitarian India. These freedom fighters would have never appreciated the divisions being created today in the name of religion," Mr. Shivakumar said.

He alleged that the BJP was targeting the Nehru-Gandhi family as the saffron party had no history of participation in the freedom struggle and they were jealous of Congress and Gandhi family because of their legacy.

The city roads were choked for some time during the march. The police made elaborate security arrangements to ensure that law and order was maintained.

While organising the event, the Congress had bought 30,000 bulk metro tickets to provide free transport to the participants. Earlier this year, Mr. Shivakumar and his brother Mr. Suresh had organised a march to urge the State government for construction of a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu across the Cauvery river.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shivakumar hoisted the tricolour at the party office and called upon people to work towards maintaining unity and integrity of the country by following the Constitution and ideals of freedom fighters. Mr. Siddaramaiah and senior leaders participated in the function.

We have not forgotten Nehru: CM

He, however, says India would not have lost China war if leadership then was strong

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amidst criticism for omitting the contribution of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in government-sponsored media advertisement on Sunday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai referred to Nehru in separate Independence Day related functions even as he took a veiled dig at the former Prime Minister and the Congress.

Students participate in the Independence Day celebration at Manekshaw Parade Grounds in Bengaluru on Monday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

"The first Prime Minister of the country, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Lal Bahadur Shastri have contributed in their own way. The Prime Ministers' Museum in Delhi has on display all the contributions made by the Prime Ministers of the country. There is no question of forgetting anyone. It is not just Prime Ministers, even other noble personalities too have contributed. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who has written the Constitution should get the credit for the functioning of democracy in all these 75 years. There has been a growing tendency of downplaying the contribution made by Ambedkar," the Chief Minister said at the Manekshaw Parade Ground on Monday morning.

He, however, reserved his larger response for criticism at Amrutha Bharathige Karunaada Jathre programme later in the afternoon.

Turning his attention on post-Independent India, the Chief Minister said that it was the teachers, farmers, soldiers, doctors, engineers and scientists who built and contributed for the development of the country. Without referring to Nehru, Mr. Bommai said: "The country was run in his name for 65 years. Why did we lose the China war? If the leaders of that time had shown strong leadership, strengthened the soldiers and timely orders were issued, we would not have lost the war." He said: "We have not forgotten his work and we have respect for Nehru. Our culture is to respect those who have done well."

"Never in the past had that government publication spoken about the contribution of others. We published them with photo. Nobody spoke good about it. They (critics) did not speak well. They (critics) felt sad that the photo of their leader was not there," the Chief Minister said.

Wanting to know the reason for names of thousands of anonymous freedom fighters who laid their lives in the freedom movement not been publicised, Chief Minister, in a veiled attack on Congress leaders, said that those who benefited from the freedom movement should answer about the kith and kin of other leaders in the freedom movement. "They should tell where the family members of Subhash Chandra Bose, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Ambedkar are. Unfortunately, Ambedkar was not even allowed to enter Parliament." The Chief Minister said: "The names of anonymous freedom fighters don't get published. I am asking why? We are asking why the names of those who died at Jallianwala Bagh don't get published. Similarly, in Bengaluru alone about 25 persons died. This programme is dedicated to those anonymous martyrs."

Mr Bommai said: "The history of freedom movement will not change. However, people who have written the history of freedom struggle have attempted to change the history in the last 75 years. Time has come to tell the truth about history and time has come for the young to understand the truth."

"Thousands of youth, farmers, workers, fighters have sacrificed their lives. However, people are competing in discussion on who brought Independence to the country. Thousands of anonymous freedom fighters fought under the leadership of Lokamanya Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Tatya Tope. In Karnataka, it was Kittur Rani Chennama and Sangoli Rayanna, Mr. Bommai said.

Responding to criticism that he had become a slave of the RSS, Mr. Bommai said: "I have accepted the ideology and thought. I have bowed my head for the patriotism that is imbibed in RSS. I am proud of it."

Two booked after chat stalls flight

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru city police filed a case against two flight passengers on Sunday after their WhatsApp chat created a scare and delayed the departure of Mumbai-bound flight at the Mangaluru International Airport.

The police gave the names of the passengers as Dipayan Manji, 23, and his friend Simran Tom, 23, both hailing from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

The police said that Mr. Manji, graduate from an institute in Manipal, had come along with Ms. Tom a couple of days ago. On Sunday, the two came to the airport. Around 11 a.m., Mr. Manji proceeded to catch a flight to Mumbai, while Ms. Tom was waiting at the terminal building for her flight to Bengaluru.

During the conversation on WhatsApp with Mr. Manji, who was in the aircraft that was scheduled to leave, Ms. Tom told Mr. Manji that the latter was a bomber. One of the lines of the chat read: "...Among all the Muslims You're the bomber..." Mr. Manji's co-passenger Simran Shetty, who was in the rear seat, oversaw the conversation and confronted Mr. Manji. She then alerted the aircraft crew, who passed on the information to personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force, who carried out a thorough search of the plane before permitting the flight to depart in the evening at 5 p.m.

On the complaint by K.P. Bopanna, station manager of Indigo Airlines, Mangaluru, the Bajpe police booked Mr. Manji and Ms. Tom for offence punishable under Section 505 (1)(b) and (c) of IPC. The two were questioned and a notice issued asking the two to appear at a later date. They were not arrested, the police said.

The case has been filed against the two on the basis that their chat was conducive to public mischief or which was likely to incite, any class or community to commit any offence.

Earlier, on Sunday, the two had reportedly told the security agencies that it was just a joke during a casual chat.

Coast heralded revolt against British in 1837

This was 2 decades before first war of Independence; Kedambady Ramayya Gowda's statue to be unveiled

ANIL KUMAR SASTRY
MANGALURU

Coastal Karnataka witnessed the upsurge against the British in 1837, two decades before the first war of Independence with farmers from Sullia and Puttur regions in the erstwhile Canara District taking control of the administration for 13 days.

They were upset mainly because of changes in land revenue rules, said Prabhakar Neermarga, who did his PhD on the upsurge, called Amara Sullia Rebellion, led by landowner Kedambady Ramayya Gowda in March 1837. When cash was an unknown thing that time, the British directive to pay land revenues in cash upset the farmers, besides many other rules, he told *The Hindu*.

People were also upset with the British taking complete control of the sale of tobacco and salt leaving private traders fuming. At that time, Mr. Gowda organised farmers, gave them training at his house near Koojumale and led the rebellion in March 30, 1837, from Ubaradka Mithoor near Sullia.

The statue of Kedambady Ramayya Gowda, who led the first upsurge against the British in Coastal Karnataka in 1837, will be unveiled in September in Mangaluru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India 75

On the way to the then Mangalore, headquarters of Canara districts, hundreds of farmers joined the rally and on reaching the city, they dismounted the Union Jack flag at Bavuta Gudda on April 5, 1837. Hoisting their own flag, the farmers remained in control of the city for 13 days before the rebellion was crushed by the British. Many farmers were hanged to death at the present Bikarnakatte on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. Neermarga regretted many farmers were termed as dacoits even as some of the landlords in the region did not support the rebellion. Participating farmers suffered humiliation following these kinds of acts, he noted. A retired deputy registrar with Mangalore University, Mr. Neermarga now is principal of MAPS Evening College in Mangaluru.

- The upsurge, called Amara Sullia Rebellion, was led by landowner Kedambady Ramayya Gowda in March 1837 against the British directive to pay land revenues in cash to farmers.

Even before this rebellion, Ullal Queen Rani Abbakka had revolted against the Portuguese in 1618, said Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel.

Meanwhile, the Mangaluru City Corporation will unveil the statue of Ramayya Gowda riding a horse made of brass, at Bavuta Gudda in the city during September first week.

Mayor Premananda Shetty said the Kannada and Culture Department has sanctioned ₹10 lakh for the work while the MCC will bear ₹30 lakh. The statue will be brought to Mangaluru on August 29.

FROM PAGE ONE

Prohibitory orders clamped in Shivamogga city

The district administration clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Cr. PC in Shivamogga city and Bhadravati town until Tuesday evening as a precautionary measure. Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner R. Selvamai and Superintendent of Police B.M. Laxmi Prasad, the police dispersed the mob. A few people were detained.

Following this, many shopkeepers closed their establishments in Gandhi Bazaar and neighbouring areas. Prem Singh, 20, a businessman and resident of Ashoka Road, was stabbed by unidentified people, while he was on the way to his residence after closing his shop at Gandhi Bazaar. He is undergoing treatment at McGann Hospital. It is not clear who attacked him. The police have booked a case.

Mr. Selvamani told presspersons that the situation was under control. Prohibitory orders had been clamped in Shivamogga city and Bhadravati town until Tuesday evening. Holiday has been declared for schools and colleges at both places on Tuesday.

Mr. Laxmi Prasad told presspersons that nobody had been arrested so far; however, a few people had been taken into custody as a preventive measure.

A couple of people had objected to the display of Savarkar's portrait at a shopping mall on Saturday and ensured it was removed. Later, BJP leaders had protested against its removal and demanded action against those who removed it. One person had been arrested.

Lok Adalat: 'Disputes can be settled at pre-litigation stage'

As many as 6.31 lakh cases settled at national-level Lok Adalat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Settlement at pre-litigation stage

2,46,890 traffic challans settled ₹14.35 crore collected as fine.	**8,571 bank loan issues closed** ₹25.08 crore recovered.	**95,756 electricity bill issues settled** ₹13.58 crore collected.	**78,716 water bill issues closed** ₹13.86 core due amount collected.

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) has created another new record in amicable resolution of disputes by putting an end to a total of 8.34 lakh cases pending in various courts as well as a large number of cases at the pre-litigation stage on a single day at the national-level Lok Adalat held on August 13.

Of the 8.34 lakh cases settled, 1.53 lakh cases were among the cases pending in courts, and the remaining 6.31 lakh cases were at pre-litigation stage before various public authorities.

Addressing presspersons here on Monday, Justice B. Veerappa, a judge of the High Court of Karnataka and the executive chairperson of KSLSA, said that settlement of an issue at pre-litigation is very important as they have the potential to give rise to a full-fledged legal disputes before various judicial and quasi judicial fora in future.

Amicable resolution of an issue at pre-litigation stage reduces possible litigation before the courts as it is aimed at resolving the differences between the parties at its initial stage, he said.

Pointing out that certain people are misguiding the litigants that certain petty cases cannot be settled through Lok Adalat, Justice Veerappa clarified that unpaid traffic challans, non-payment of telephone, electricity, water bills, and other utility services, non-repayment of bank loans, disputes before revenue authorities, etc. come under the ambit of Lok Adalat for settlement through conciliation.

He made it clear that the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, empowers settlement of wide variety of cases, including disputes pending before revenue authorities like tahsildar, etc. at pre-litigation stage. If an issue between two parties under the revenue laws before the lowest revenue authority is settled amicably then the question of the issue reaching the higher revenue authorities, the civil court, the High Court, and the Supreme Court by way of appeals does not arise, Justice Veerappa pointed out.

In this Lok Adalat, 94,446 cases related to khata change, issuance of ID cards, pension etc. pending before the revenue authorities were amicably settled, he said.

Due to the efforts of conciliators, 1,380 matrimonial dispute cases pending in the courts were settled and about 120 couples were reunited, he said.

A civil suit related to partition, pending in a district courts in Karwar for 42 years, was the oldest case settled.

'Madhuswamy should resign immediately'

Govt. will complete full term: Munirathna

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The purported conversation of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy that the government is not functioning but only being managed, which has embarrassed the government, took a new twist with his Cabinet colleague and Horticulture Minister Munirathna seeking his resignation.

While Cooperation Minister S.T. Somashekar, whose name had cropped up in Mr. Madhuswamy's telephone conversation that had been leaked to the media on Saturday, had slammed Mr. Madhuswamy, he received support from Mr. Muniratna on Monday.

The conversation of Mr. Madhuswamy with one Bhaskar, who is a resident of Channapatna, on the problems in crop loan renewal in VSSN Bank, had gone viral, embarrassing the government.

To an appeal from Mr. Bhaskar to rectify, the Minister is heard saying: "The government is not functioning. With elections eight months, it is only being managed."

Speaking to reporters at Kolar, Mr. Muniratna said: "Mr. Madhuswamy should resign immediately for making such statements. He is part of the government and part of all discussions in the government and the Cabinet. If the government is being managed as per his statement, it will also apply to him." Stating that it is wrong on his part to make such statements being in a responsible position, he said Mr. Madhuswamy can resign and make such statements. "Such statements does not augur well for his stature."

'Ready to face election'

To another question, Mr. Muniratna maintained that the government will complete its full term. "In case there is an early election, we are ready to face it as well."

Incidentally, both Mr. Somashekar and Mr. Muniratna were part of 'Operation Kamala' in which 17 legislators, switched political loyalties resulting in toppling the 14-month coalition government led by then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in 2019.

Mr. Muniratna's comments are being seen as an attempt by those who came to the BJP from other parties to send a political message that they are united.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

It is with the deepest regret that we inform you of the passing away of **Mr. V. Kalidas,** *Vice President (Retired) Advertisement Department, The Hindu, Chennai* on 14.08.2022, peacefully at his daughter's residence in New York.

He is survived by his wife Akila, son Prahlad, daughter Sridevi, their spouses Sowmya and Sriram and five grandchildren; his two sisters Uma and Bhama, brother Durga, their families, as well as the families of his sisters Kama and Anja.

PRAHLAD KALIDAS
+1-713-703-0902; prahladkalidas@gmail.com

In Memory of your loved ones

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

IN BRIEF

Long wait for devotees at Tirumala for darshan

TIRUMALA

The Lord Venkateswara temple saw huge crowds again on Monday. The waiting time, particularly for those without darshan tickets, stretched beyond 30 hours. Both the footpaths to the shrine also experienced unprecedented footfalls.

TRS leader hacked to death in Khammam

KHAMMAM

A local leader Tammineni Krishnaiah, considered a staunch follower of former Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao of the TRS was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in Khammam on Monday. As the news of the brutal killing spread, a group of irate villagers ransacked the house of a "suspect" in the murder, triggering commotion.

Five Hyderabad residents killed in accident in Bidar

They were returning home after a visit to Dattatreya temple at Ganagapur

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Five persons were killed and four injured in a road accident near Bangur checkpost on Hyderabad-Mumbai National Highway in Bidar district on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as G. Giridhar, 45, a head constable in Hyderabad, his wife Anita, 36, their son Mayank, 2, his sister-in-law's daughter Priyanka, 15, and car driver Jagadish, 35 — all residents of Begumpet in Hyderabad city. While four died on the spot, Mayank succumbed at the Mannaekhalli hospital. Giridhar's son Harshavardhan, 12, escaped unhurt.

As per the information provided by the Bidar police, the victims were returning to Hyderabad after visiting Dattatreya temple at Deval Ganagapur in Afzalpur taluk of Kalaburagi district. The police said that the car in which the victims were travelling rammed into a container truck.

Giridhar's relatives Rajita, Sarita, Shalini, and Sarala were critically injured. The bodies were shifted to Hyderabad.

Additional Superintendent of Police Mahesh Meghannanavar, Deputy Superintendent of Police Satish, circle inspector Srikant Allapur and police sub-inspector Kallappa Mugate visited the spot. Traffic movement on the national highway was disrupted for a while. "The car, driven by Giridhar's friend, collided with the truck. Four persons, including the car driver, died on the spot," Mr. Meghannanaver said.

3% DA hike for T.N. govt. employees, pensioners

Stalin also announces hike in pension for freedom fighters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A 3% hike in Dearness Allowance for State government employees and pensioners, an increase in the monthly pension for freedom fighters and their descendants and the setting up of an Independence Day Museum in Chennai were among the major announcements made by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during his Independence Day address on Monday.

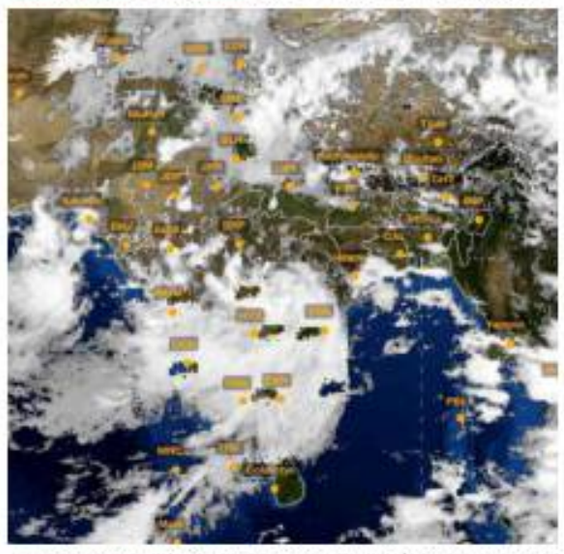
After hoisting the national flag on the ramparts of Fort St. George, Mr. Stalin said the 3% hike in DA would be granted with effect from July 1 this year. The hike would cost the exchequer ₹1,947.60 crore and benefit over 16 lakh employees and pensioners.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the hoisting of the national flag during the Independence Day celebrations. • S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The monthly pension granted by the State government to freedom fighters would be increased from ₹18,000 to ₹20,000, and the family pension would be revised from ₹9,000 to ₹10,000, from August 15. The special monthly pension granted to the descendants of freedom fighters Veera Pandiya Kattabomman, Sivaganga Marudhupandiyar Brothers, Sivaganga Muthuramalinga Vijayaraghunatha Sethupathi and V.O. Chidambaranar would be revised from from ₹9,000 to ₹10,000, Mr. Stalin said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places likely over Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	34.2	26.4	Kozhikode	3.0	31.4	24.8
Ahmedabad	0.7	33.5	25.2	Kurnool	6.0	29.0	23.9
Aizawl	42.0	25.8	20.8	Lucknow	0.4	34.2	27.1
Allahabad	–	33.7	26.2	Madurai	–	36.8	24.5
Bengaluru	–	26.5	20.1	Mangaluru	2.4	28.2	23.2
Bhopal	45.4	27.9	23.0	Mumbai	5.0	29.6	25.5
Bhubaneswar	47.0	26.0	24.0	Mysuru	–	29.3	21.2
Chandigarh	58.0	35.8	24.6	New Delhi	3.0	33.2	25.0
Chennai	–	37.0	27.9	Patna	3.0	33.5	27.0
Coimbatore	–	31.7	22.6	Port Blair	44.0	29.2	24.8
Dehradun	46.0	33.7	22.6	Puducherry	–	36.6	26.0
Gangtok	47.0	19.8	17.5	Pune	0.8	26.9	22.2
Goa	3.0	30.6	24.9	Raipur	64.0	25.8	23.2
Guwahati	–	34.6	26.5	Ranchi	38.0	25.0	–
Hubballi	–	28.0	21.0	Shillong	2.0	26.9	18.2
Hyderabad	3.4	25.2	21.3	Shimla	32.0	22.4	16.0
Imphal	3.0	29.6	20.7	Srinagar	0.2	33.3	20.6
Jaipur	6.0	27.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.2	23.8
Kochi	–	31.0	25.0	Tiruchi	–	36.5	26.0
Kohima	–	–	17.6	Vijayawada	0.6	29.6	25.4
Kolkata	39.0	29.4	25.2	Visakhapatnam	1.0	28.0	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	31	23	.49	39	71	
Bengaluru	21	30	114	–	43	
Chennai	7	17	.22	50	62	
Delhi	–	10	.64	–	210	
Hyderabad	6	2	112	12	18	
Kolkata	10	10	.15	17	43	
Lucknow	6	20	.78	13	29	
Mumbai	26	–	.49	24	500	
Pune	–	40	.97	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	14	36	.19	37	89	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 112 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Dehradun, Uttarakhand recorded a healthy AQI score of 18.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

FROM PAGE ONE

Metro sees heavy rush, traffic hit owing to Congress rally

Congress workers wait outside Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station in Bengaluru on Monday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Heavy passenger movements were seen at Majestic, National College, Lalbagh, Vidhana Soudha, and other stations. People were seen sitting on the platform areas waiting for the trains to come, and trains were running packed.

Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL, said, "With the help of police and our staff, we managed to clear the rush by running additional trains as required. Our Director monitored the situation by sitting in the control room. It is a good sign that thousands of people relied on metro services to commute by ditching private vehicles. Use of private vehicles could have created traffic snarls."

However, traffic movement in various parts of Bengaluru, including the Central Business District (CBD) areas, was disrupted after Congress workers took out a rally from the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station to the National College ground to mark the 75th Independence Day.

Despite the Bengaluru traffic police issuing an alert for traffic congestion in much of the city on Monday, traffic went out of gear as thousands of party workers from various parts of the city and neighbouring districts thronged the State capital to take part in the rally.

The general public had to be stuck in the traffic due to the rally and the police had a tough time.

Traffic snarls were reported in Majestic, Queens Road, MG Road, Jayanagar, Basavanagudi, J.P. Nagar, J.C. road, Mysuru road, K.R. Puram, Hosur Road, and Outer Ring Road.

According to motorists, the commuting time in the CBD area increased by at least one-and-a-half hours as a result. Mohan Kumar, a motorist at Jayanagar, said: "This kind of political rally should not be permitted inside the city limits. I was stuck in traffic for more than one hour."

Meanwhile, the BJP's show of their strength on the occasion at the Kanteerva stadium, which was addressed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, party president Nalin Kumar Kateel, former CM B.S. Yediyurappa and other leaders, also affected traffic in the city, particularly in CBD areas on Monday morning. The Bengaluru traffic police had made a few alternative arrangements to ensure that the traffic will not be affected, but in vain.

A senior traffic police official said that both political events disrupted the traffic movement, but as it was a government holiday, the number of motorists was lesser.

Beta version of Digi Yatra app launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

On the occasion of Independence Day, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) launched a beta version of Digi Yatra app on Monday.

Digi Yatra provides a seamless process for air passengers, by using single-token face biometric for verification. In a press release, the Bangalore International Airport Limited said that the Digi Yatra biometric boarding system at e-gates is operational, and being rolled out on a full scale for all domestic airlines in a phased manner, covering checkpoints for domestic travel.

The release further stated that Vistara Airlines and AirAsia are the two airlines that are currently integrated with Digi Yatra. The app is currently available on Google Playstore for Android users, and an iOS version will be made available in one month.

The pilot trials started in 2017. The project is an initiative of the Civil Aviation Ministry.

"The DYCE is being built on the standards defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) which include Self Sovereign Identity (SSI) with Verifiable Credentials (VCs), Decentralised Identifiers (DIDs) with a trust layer of a Distributed Ledger and ensuring adoption of Privacy by Design and Privacy by Default as the fundamental tenets. This ensures passengers will not have to worry about sharing their data as it is secure and will be deleted after 24 hours following their travel," stated the release.

Ammunition found in child's handbag at airport

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

A live bullet round used by Israeli defence forces was found in the handbag of a child passenger at the Chennai International Airport on Sunday. The five-year-old was part of a family that was on its way to Singapore from Dubai via Chennai.

According to sources, the family of Krishna Dubey Bihari, 64, a former Central Excise official , arrived from Dubai. As the family proceeded to board a connecting flight to Singapore and went through security check, the CISF personnel found a live round in the hand luggage of Mr. Dubey's grandchild. The CISF lodged a formal complaint with the local police. Inquiries revealed that Mr. Dubey lived in Singapore since his daughter had settled there.

The family was returning to Singapore after a trip to Israel via Dubai. Asked by a Joint Interrogation Committee comprising Central and State intelligence officials, Mr. Dubey said his granddaughter had been playing on the beach with other children in Tel Aviv and was seen picking small things along the shore. It was possible that the child could have picked the live ammunition and kept it in her bag.

The family was allowed to continue its journey to Singapore and no case was registered since no *mala fide* intent was made out.

Kerala minor boys nabbed for throwing firecrackers at train

Incident raised concern as two Ministers were to board it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has reportedly let off a couple of minor boys who were found to have thrown firecrackers at the Maveli Express at the Vellayil Railway Station in Kozhikode on Saturday night.

According to sources, they were nabbed from the railway station premises by personnel from the Vellayil Police Station, who were patrolling the area on Sunday night. Though there were three boys in the group, one of them managed to flee the area. Firecrackers were recovered from the others.

The police say that they were planning to hurl them at trains again. The boys were later handed over to the Railway Protection Force, who questioned them and let them off with their parents.

Incident happened at the Vellayil Railway Station in Kozhikode • FILE PHOTO

The hurling of firecrackers on Saturday night had raised security concerns as Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan and Minister for Public Works P.A. Mohamed Riyas were expected to board the Thiruvananthapuram-bound train coming from Mangaluru at the Kozhikode Railway Station.

When the train passed by the Vellayil station, an incendiary object was found to have been thrown from the eastern side of the platform towards the general coach.

It hit a passenger's leg, fell outside the coach, and burst. The passenger informed the RPF personnel about the incident when the train reached the Kozhikode station. A case has been registered at the Vellayil Police Station.

Constitutional values need to be protected, says Pinarayi

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The followers of those who had murdered Gandhi are now attempting to destroy the constitutional values of secularism, social justice and equality, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday.

"The reason for communalists assassinating Gandhi was the ideals of Hindu-Muslim unity and tolerance that he held on to strongly. The British imperialists nurtured communalism to break this unity," he said.

Basis of citizenship

"Our Constitution never specified faith as a basis for citizenship. But now, India is being transformed in such a way that religion is being made the basis of citizenship. Those in power, who are supposed to uphold secularism, are doing this. Those spreading hate and making calls for riots are getting protection. All these instances have brought disrepute for India at the global level," the Kerala Chief Minister said.

He was speaking at a conference to protect Constitutional values, organised by the Navodhana Samrakshana Samiti as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

"Our Constitution is different from other Constitutions across the world due to its basic character of social reform. It was the reason for the many laws to protect minorities and the marginalised, including the reservation for communities that were oppressed for generations. To protect the Constitution also means to protect social justice. We have to pledge that we will stand united to protect the values enshrined in the Constitution," he said.

Centre trying to weaken States: KCR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government of trying to weaken the States in violation of federal principles enshrined in the Constitution.

"The Central government which is harping on cooperative federalism is however trying to centralise powers. The Centre's actions are tantamount to ridiculing the first Article of the Constitution which describes India as a Union of States," he said.

Mr. Rao further said while States should get 41% of taxes that are collected, the Central government is resorting to backdoor methods like imposing cess.

Speculation about CPI(M) activists' killers spark row

The 39-year-old was hacked to death in Palakkad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Strident political speculation about the CPI(M) activist Shajahan's killers has sparked a row in Kerala.

Unidentified persons had hacked 39-year-old Shajahan to death in Palakkad on Sunday.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran said a fratricidal feud within the CPI(M) in Palakkad had resulted in the murder. "Congress is ideologically and politically opposed to the BJP. But, the BJP is not responsible for every political murder in the State. The CPI(M) cannot always hide its crimes by raising the bogey of the Sangh Parivar," he said. Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheeshan mirrored a similar sentiment. Mr. Sudhakaran said Shajahan's fellow activists had identified his killers as CPI(M) members on live television.

Meanwhile, the Palakkad police's FIR suggested that political rivalry had prompted the murder. However, the police were yet to identify the accused.

CPI(M) district secretary E.N. Suresh Babu claimed that the RSS had executed the murder. He noted that the suspects had severed links with the CPI(M) and switched sides to the BJP.

The CPI(M) has strongly condemned Mr. Sudhakaran's suggestion that Shajahan's murder resulted from internal strife in the party.

In a statement, the CPI(M) State secretariat urged the public to reject the "false propaganda" that party members had turned on each other in Palakkad.

The CPI(M) said that since 2016, the RSS had "killed at least 17 party workers in Kerala". It condemned the murder and charged that an RSS hit team had carried out the killing. The CPI(M) State secretariat also perceived a plot to foment widespread social unrest in Kerala.

The BJP district president, Palakkad, K. M. Haridas, said neither his party nor the RSS had any role in Shajahan's murder. He seemed to echo Mr. Sudhakaran's perception that festering internal strife in the CPI (M) had culminated in the crime.

Freedom on I-Day for 175 life convicts

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

As many as 175 life convicts walked out of jails in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. The Home Department, Prisons and Correctional Services, Government of A.P., issued orders for the release of the prisoners on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day.

The government had constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Home) to select the list of eligible life convicts and recommend to the government for consideration. The Director General of Prisons had sent a list of those who fulfilled the conditions, following which the Standing Committee recommended the release of 175 life convicts on special remission.

Clash erupts during BJP leader Sanjay's padayatra

Altercation between TRS, BJP cadre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JANGAON

Tension flared up in Devaruppula of Jangaon district on Monday following a clash between the TRS cadres and BJP activists during the Telangana BJP president and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar's third phase of *Praja Sangrama Yatra* (padayatra) on Monday.

The incident occurred when some local TRS cadres interrupted the speech of Mr. Sanjay at a roadside meeting when the latter slammed the ruling TRS dispensation over its "unfulfilled" promises such as providing a government job to one member of every household and two bedroom houses for all homeless people.

The TRS cadres raised slogans against the BJP-led Central government seeking an explanation over its "unkept" promise of two crore jobs for unemployed youths every year in the country.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar

This led to an altercation between the cadres of the BJP and the TRS, which soon turned into fisticuffs.

Utter chaos prevailed for some time and three BJP cadres and two TRS activists injured, sources said.

Meeting aspirations

India needs better governance for the sake of its own people, not global approbation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly described independent India's 75-year journey as one of "ups and downs" in his ninth speech from the stately Red Fort on Monday. Praising those who fought for India's freedom, the Prime Minister pointed to the country's achievements even as he acknowledged the challenges of fulfilling the pressing needs of an ever-aspirational society, tugging at the seams of government. National pride and self esteem were dominant themes as he urged the country to rid itself of the need to look for approval from abroad. Asking the question about how long India could go on living on "certificates" from abroad, the Prime Minister wondered why India could not develop its own "markers". Though Mr. Modi provided no context to these remarks, his comments could indicate his unhappiness with international criticism directed at his government on governance and human rights' issues. Successive Prime Ministers have used their Independence Day speeches as a stock-taking of their government's record and as an insight to what the nation might face. With two years left for the general election, the Prime Minister was in an expansive mood, taking up issues of women's safety, energy self-reliance, celebrating the diversity of India, the need to respect all languages, and promising an all-out war against corruption and "*parivarvad*", or the pernicious influence of dynasty. The Prime Minister asked the people to give him their "blessings" as the battle against corruption enters a decisive phase where even the big fish will not be spared. Even as he dwelt on governance issues, Mr. Modi laced his speech with a political appeal.

Mr. Modi was silent about his promises made in 2016 to double the income of farmers by the time the country celebrated its 75th Independence Day. However, he did lay out his vision for an "*amrit kaal*", or developed age, in the next 25 years, the 100th year of India's independence, in 2047. Details of how the country would reach the objective were scanty, apparently kept for another day. In keeping with the Bharatiya Janata Party's new status as the natural party of governance, the Prime Minister underlined that India had got a stable government after many decades, resulting in speedy decision-making. There was little in his 82-minute speech about the strategic challenges before the country in the wake of tensions at the borders and turbulence in the international order following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To achieve its full potential, India must not only be able to overcome many obstacles that hold it back but also sail with the rest of the world in meeting the benchmarks of democratic rights, equitable distribution of wealth and access to health and education. India might not need approval from other countries, but it needs to do better on rights and freedoms, welfare and justice, growth and development, and in building a more egalitarian society.

The power of words

The assault on Rushdie is an attack on those who speak out against all forms of extremism

Salman Rushdie has lived in the shadow of a death threat since 1989, after his fourth novel, *The Satanic Verses* (1988), led Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to issue a *fatwa* against the writer for offending Islam, the Prophet and the *Koran*. The extraterritorial edict multiplied the danger to the writer, and though the motive is still unknown, last Friday, Rushdie, 75, was stabbed multiple times at a literary function in New York. He is off the ventilator, but, according to his son, remains in critical condition. Through the years, others have faced violence over the novel too. People have died in riots, blasts, firing to protest against the book; his Japanese, Norwegian and Italian translators were targeted; a bomb killed the person who was trying to set it off. Rushdie went into hiding for nine years, where he burnished his weapon of choice – words. He has talked the language of truth, upheld freedoms of art and the intellect and pushed for ideals of democracy such as the right to dissent in his 14 novels, and in several incisive essays. In fact, under cover, assuming the *nom de guerre* Joseph Anton (inspired by the wanderer in Conrad, and the melancholy of Chekov; also the title of his 2012 memoir), he penned *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, a book he had promised to write for his nine-year-old son.

For his Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children* (1981), which reimagined India's independence, he had dispensed with safety nets, just like his literary inspirations, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Gunter Grass and Nadine Gordimer. Rushdie found a new language to write about "hot and overcrowded and vulgar and loud" India, shining a light for future writers such as Arundhati Roy. The assault on Rushdie is also an attack against voices who speak out against extremism. Far too many writers, from M.M. Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh to Anna Politkovskaya, have faced violence, some paying with their lives, for agitating people in a "culture of easy offendedness". On the frontline, Rushdie has been acutely alive to the expanding threat. "This new idea," he writes in an essay titled 'Courage' (Languages of Truth), "that writers, scholars and artists who stand against orthodoxy or bigotry are to blame for upsetting people is spreading fast, even to countries like India that once prided themselves on their freedoms." Speak up, he says, every little bit counts. Rushdie's next novel, *Victory City*, a translation of an epic, and a book about the "power and the hubris of those in power", is out next February. But before the long recovery, a spot of cheer from the hospital: his son says Rushdie is being his usual feisty and defiant self, and that his sense of humour is intact.

The fragility of the Northeast's integration

The idea of India is under transformation again, and any return to 'mainstream versus sub-stream friction' spells danger

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM

The integration of Northeast India into mainstream Indian life has been on the national agenda from the very start of India's journey as an independent nation. The region has always been seen to be somewhat alien and needing assimilation, which found (and finds) reflection in administrative terms too. Two such measures, on opposite ends of the spectrum, should characterise this predicament: the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution introduced in 1949 and the draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), promulgated in 1958. Seventy-five years after Independence, the question is how successful has this integration been?

'Excluded' areas

The British had also considered leaving this "Mongolian Fringe" – a term British India Foreign Secretary Olaf Caroe coined in a paper in 1940 – as a Crown Colony. This entity was to be a combination of hill regions of the Northeast and Upper Burma. The Governor of Assam, Robert Reid, flagged this in a 22-page note in 1937 titled 'A Note on the Future of the Present Excluded, Partially Excluded and Tribal Areas of Assam', by saying people here, "neither racially, historically, culturally, nor linguistically", had any affinity with the rest of India. There were other similar thoughts too as David R. Syiemlieh documents in his *On the Edge of Empire: Four British Plans for North East India 1941-1947*.

These "Excluded" and "Partially Excluded" areas Reid mentions, were constituted largely of the unadministered hills of Assam separated from its revenue plains by an "Inner Line" created by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1873, and this was a year before Assam was separated from Bengal and made a Chief Commissioner's Province. Earlier, Assam was annexed into British Bengal after the First Anglo Burmese War 1824-26 and the signing of the Treaty of Yandabo.

The Sixth Schedule

British Assam was virtually the entire Northeast of today, excluding two kingdoms, Tripura and Manipur. In these kingdoms too, though no Inner Line was introduced, the British brought in similar administrative mechanisms separating "excluded" hills from the revenue plains. In Tripura, the plains of Chakla Roshanabad were annexed to British Bengal and the Tripura kings were allowed to be landowners there but not claim sovereignty over them. In Manipur, the hills and the central revenue plains of the Imphal valley came to be treated as separate administrative regions in 1907.

The Crown Colony plan was ultimately dropped on grounds of administrative feasibility. Reid's idea probably was also influenced by a memorandum to the Simon Commission in 1929 by a nascent Naga nationalist body, Naga Club, which argued that Nagas were not Indians. Interestingly, the Crown Colony bears resemblance to the notion of "Zomia", conceived by Willem van Schendel and popularised by James C. Scott in 'The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia'. This complex mosaic of ethnicities was what India inherited.

The Sixth Schedule was independent India's first administrative instrument for undivided Assam's tribal belt. The works of Verrier Elwin, British-born Indian anthropologist, who advocated for tribals to be encouraged to live by their own geniuses, were its inspiration. The Schedules mandated the formation of Autonomous District Councils in which, among others, tribal customary laws were given legitimacy.

RITU RAJ KONWAR

The Naga Hills refused the Sixth Schedule and would have nothing less than sovereignty. A powerful insurgency resulted, and in its wake, AFSPA, with sweeping powers given to the armed forces. As an overture of pacification, the Naga Hills district was merged with the adjacent Mon and Tuensang subdivision of the North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), or today's Arunachal Pradesh, to form a separate Nagaland State in 1963.

India 75

Naga insurgency, however, raged on in different avatars. A peace negotiation has been in progress for the last 25 years, and the hope is that this would culminate in a lasting settlement.

In 1972, most of these autonomous regions were bifurcated from Assam. Meghalaya became a State, while Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were made Union Territories. The latter two were upgraded to States in 1987. Tripura and Manipur, which were made Part-C States after merger with India in 1949, were also upgraded to States in 1972.

Amidst these, the national identity question remained incompletely resolved and insurgencies spawned and spread even in States such as Assam and Manipur where the emotional gulf with mainstream India had seemingly narrowed. The hegemonic suspicion of the Indian state of the "Mongolian Fringe", and reciprocal fear of the latter of being forced out of their traditional worlds to be overwhelmed by a cultural and population deluge from the mainstream, persisted. Every deviation from national norms in the region came to be attributed to machinations by unseen "foreign hands"; likewise, every nationalising project tended to seen on the other side as insidious cultural aggression.

Inclusion by accommodation

But as India gained confidence and shed its insecurities of further balkanisation after its traumatic Partition experience, the outlook towards national identity and nationalism underwent moderations, inclining towards a constitutional definition of these understandings rather than it being cultural. National integration also came to be more about the mainstream broadening to accommodate all other streams within the national territory, rather than requiring the latter to leave their streams to join the mainstream.

The changes the North Eastern Council (NEC) went through can be read as a demonstration of this. This institution was founded in 1971 as an advisory body. Initially, its members were Governors of the Northeast States, thereby remaining as the ears and eyes of the Centre. Its original pledge too made security the primary concern. In 2002, the act that brought NEC to life was amended. From an advisory role, it became an infrastructure planning body for the region. Sikkim was also brought into its fold. Significantly, its executive structure expanded to include Chief Ministers of these States, linking it to the aspirations of local electorates.

Likewise, DoNER was created in the Union Government in 2001, and in 2004 it was upgraded to a full-fledged Ministry. The paranoid suspicion of a "foreign hand" too has all but disappeared, and, earlier, in 1991, India's Look East Policy was born with the stated objective of linking the Northeast with the vibrant economies of South East Asia. In 2010, a protected area regime that had restricted visits to Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram by foreigners was relaxed. Although unsuccessful, there was even a judicial commission constituted in 2004 to recommend a way to repeal or else "humanise" AFSPA. The new optimism was palpable. Indeed, it would not be unreasonable to presume this was the "moral imagination" of John Paul Lederach at work, resulting in the visible ebbing of many insurgencies in the region today.

Now, an unsettling question

But the idea of India is transforming again under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in New Delhi, indicating a return to a rigid understanding by the Indian mainstream. The unsettling question is would this mean a return to the mainstream versus sub-stream friction? The BJP, today has a strong presence in the Northeast. The party is in power in Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh but what needs to be remembered is that electoral politics in the region has been less about ideology and more about aligning with the party in power at the Centre. Grass-root sentiments do not always reflect in this, and are supported by two examples. Assam vehemently opposed the BJP-sponsored Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), yet the electorate returned the BJP to power. In Manipur, AFSPA remains an emotive issue, yet the BJP which did not even mention AFSPA in its election manifesto was voted back. This disconnect between the grassroots and electoral politics being what it is, there is no guarantee that the BJP's party ideology has harnessed or sublimated the undercurrents of gut politics in the region. If unmindful, the potential for trouble in the CAA, AFSPA or other counter-cultures the region is known for, can flare up again regardless of the party in power.

Pradip Phanjoubam is Editor, FPSJ Review of Arts and Politics

The temples that Jawaharlal Nehru built

Nehru's luminous legacy is deeply laid in India's growth story since Independence

C. SARAT CHANDRAN

As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, Indians will see this as an occasion to recall Jawaharlal Nehru's immortal speech, "A Tryst with Destiny", delivered on the night of August 14, 1947, and its haunting poetic expressions – "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India awakes to life and freedom." For most, that speech and the man who spoke those words symbolised the spirit of a new nation just born. For them, some of the recent attempts to undermine Nehru's place in history may seem like a minor distraction.

Vision of a modern nation

Nehru's luminous legacy is deeply laid in India's growth story since Independence. In May this year, when the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched India's largest public issue and collected ₹21,000 crore from the market, the nation was aware that this was a Nehruvian institution established in the early years of independent India. Equally, when we look at the celebrated names of global CEOs and corporate leaders, we can recognise many of them as Nehru's 'children', as they were educated at the iconic Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIM).

In 1947, Nehru, as Prime Minister, inherited an India that was politically shattered, socially divided and emotionally devastated. Yet, with restraint and self-confidence, he steered the country through those turbulent times and laid out the vision of a modern, progressive nation that quietly earned the respect of the global community.

Ideas and institutions

Nehru's vision of India was anchored in a set of ideas such as democracy, secularism, inclusive economic growth, free press and non-alignment in international affairs and also in institutions that would lay the foundation for India's future growth. These institutions touched every kind of economic activity, ranging from agriculture to aviation and space research. An agnostic Nehru described them as "the temples of modern India". There were around 75 of these institutions including the Bhakra-Nangal dam, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the LIC, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, the National Library of India and the National Institute of Design. Nehru saw them occupying the commanding heights of a stable, self-sustaining economy with people's welfare as their central mission. Nehru's inclusive vision ensured that these institutions spanned the entire social spectrum. When the IITs were

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planned, Nehru also established a network of Kendriya Vidyalayas. Along with large projects in steel and petroleum, Nehru saw the importance of promoting small and cottage industries and set up the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. When Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela were taking shape as functional townships, the Prime Minister also felt the need for a well-designed, modern city and thus was born Chandigarh. Chandigarh was perhaps India's first 'smart city' when that term was not yet fashionable.

Two of these institutions deserve special mention: the Election Commission of India and the Planning Commission. They relate to the fundamentals of the Nehruvian vision: the triumph of democracy along with development. Nehru's institutions flourished under the management of a group of accomplished persons who shared his idealism and his vision of a modern India. These were people of stature and high learning. They were technocrats, scientists and professionals with impressive records of past achievements. They included Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, P.C. Mahalanobis, Verghese Kurien, S.S. Bhatnagar, S.Bhagavantam and C.D. Deshmukh. Each of them steered the fortunes of the project under them with high professional standards, laying down benchmarks for the performance of the project and identifying second layers of leadership for the project's future growth. Many of these institutions, over the years, rose to global standards. Indian Oil became the first Indian company to be listed in the Fortune 100, in 2014. Amul emerged as the country's best known consumer brand and India became the largest milk-producer in the world.

Shifts in the economy

Prime Minister Nehru's 17-year rule set the stage for momentum in the Indian economy and his management model became a template for many succeeding Prime Ministers. This was a period which saw seismic shifts in the Indian economy. The Green Revolution which transformed India from a basket case to a grain-exporting nation, the telephone revolution that changed the telephone from being a symbol of elite lifestyle to mass ownership, and the digital revolution which turned India into a global technology hub all played out one after another. And then came the momentous reforms in 1991 under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao which transformed the economy into an open, liberal and largely market-driven regime.

The success of these missions owed a great deal to the Nehruvian model, with several scientists and technocrats playing a central role in these accomplishments, such as M.S. Swaminathan, Sam Pitroda, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Nandan Nilekani. Collectively, these shifts have lifted over 300 million Indians above the poverty line and heralded the arrival of a modern, diversified globally connected economy with a significant digital component.

Now, well into the third decade of the 21st century, India is widely recognised as the fastest-growing large economy of the world. It is an incredible transformation in scale and depth to unfold in 75 years. It all began with one man's dream and the many shrines of growth and development that he built. Their enduring impact reaffirms Nehru's place in history. Among the political leaders of the newly independent nations of the 20th century, Nehru stands out as a unique personality who combined intellectual stature with mass popularity. The Economist in a widely-read obituary titled "World Without Nehru", on May 30, 1964, observed, "Throughout the long years of his premiership, he retained his magical grip on the great masses of people." That equation, which an Indian Prime Minister had with his people, remains unequalled and untested till now.

C. Sarat Chandran is Senior Fellow, London School of Economics

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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India at 75

The Hindu deserves praise for giving us nostalgic reminiscences of the formation of free India. The iconic page dated Friday, August 15, 1947 and the special 'India at 75' articles were very interesting to read. The report (front page), "Members take pledge of service to country", should inspire our present lawmakers and governments at the Centre and States to work even harder. India has come a long way since Independence, crossing obstacles on its path to progress. On a momentous occasion for every Indian, we need to rededicate ourselves to sustain the country's growth with equity in development.

G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ The issue dated August 15, 2022 is sure to touch everyone who has deep patriotic feelings. People would do well to go through the facsimile of the page from August 15, 1947. The very heading, "Free India is born", was deeply inspiring.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,
Chennai

■ The issue (August 15) was one to stir immense pride and great happiness in a reader. Every page was a treat to read with writers and contributors ('India at 75') trying their best to make a reader understand the value of independence. On a personal note, it was moving to see the picture of the Second Round Table Conference in 1931 that accompanied the article, "Such a long reckoning", as two of my relatives were a part of the conference in London, having been closely associated with the freedom movement and the Mahatma. Going through the issue was an opportunity to share anecdotes with the rest of the family about what some of us had heard about the London conference.

Y. ZAKIR HUSSAIN,
Chennai

■ I am 90 and I wonder how many of our leaders today would have understood the import of the electrifying oration of Jawaharlal Nehru. Independent India embarking on a new and difficult journey is an account that has to be retold to the next generation. What is saddening today is how politics in India has become murky and muddled, unlike the transparency in the formative years of Independence.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

■ The Editorial, 'A Red-Letter Day' (Friday, August 15, 1947), was comprehensive in citing the Herculean challenges ahead in shaping a new India. The print may have been in small font, but it was an example of effective communication in an exhaustive manner. The language used was simple, but it had aim and purpose keeping the common reader in mind.

BALASUBRAMANIAM PAVANI,
Secunderabad

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: A report, "Govt. extends PMAY Urban scheme" (August 12, 2022, some editions), said that *112 crore homes* had been sanctioned. The scheme was launched with the aim of constructing over *1.12 crore homes* in urban areas, out of which 61.77 lakh houses have been completed.

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The shackles of 1861 need to go

Though much has changed, attention needs to be paid to lingering issues in India's police agency

R.K. VIJ

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As India is celebrating 75 years of Independence, the police continue to be in the public gaze, most often for antagonistic reasons. Criminal laws and procedures, though modified, and the shadows of India's colonial legacy do not appear to leave the police agency any time soon.

Changes to the IPC

India's parliamentarians rose to the occasion and passed The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, with an objective more to reform, rather than punish, offenders. Realising the urgent need to check the social evil of dowry, the Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961. More revolutionary changes were made in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1983 and 1986 and by introducing Sections 498A (cruelty by husband and his relatives) and 304B (dowry death) along with certain amendments in the Evidence Act. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, was enacted in 1989.

The definition of rape has been widened and offences related to sexual assault made tougher. Comprehensive laws such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, have been enacted. Electronic documents and signatures have been given legal sanctity to facilitate online transactions and check cybercrime under the Information Technology Act of 2000. The National Investigation Agency was constituted in 2008 (after the deadly 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai) to investigate and prosecute offences affecting national security. All these statutes have added a progressive and more humane chapter to the history of our criminal justice system.

The constitutional courts have also made far-reaching contributions. By reading down Section 377 of the IPC, the Supreme Court granted relief to the LGBTQ+ community. Custodial torture and sexual harassment of women have been held to be violations of fundamental rights. The jurisprudence of providing compensation to victims of crime has evolved over time. The right to privacy has been recognised as a fundamental right. The demon of 'sedition' (Section 124A), which was brought into the IPC in 1870 to suppress the national movement, has recently been caged by the Supreme Court so that its constitutionality can be decided and its alleged misuse be curbed.

Attempts have been made to blend some elements of the inquisitorial system into the (prevalent) adversarial system by making judicial inquiry into custodial death and custodial rape mandatory and dig out the truth to punish the guilty. However, the police continue to be haunted by allegations of being a brute force. The trust deficit does not appear to have bridged despite the power to arrest having been curtailed, the use of handcuffs restrained, the presence of a lawyer permitted during interrogation, CCTV cameras installed in the police stations, and human rights bodies allowed to keep a constant eye. Lawmakers are still reluctant and the judiciary apprehensive about making voluntary confessions before a police officer admissible.

Many committees have been constituted and recommendations made to reform the criminal justice system in general and the police in particular, but to no avail. The latest in focus is the Supreme Court order in *Prakash Singh v. Union of India* (2006). The poor and tardy compliance with the directives has been explained in the book, *The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police*. This public interest litigation was filed with an objective of transforming 'a ruler's police into a people's police'. The writer, Prakash Singh, has said that even the directive of separating investigation from law and order, which only required a sanction of a few more posts, was not implemented by States and Union Territories in the true spirit. Despite 'Police' being a State subject, no State government has given due attention to police reforms so far. Though the Police Act of 1861 was made applicable to all provinces after the 1902-03 Commission's recommendations, no State or UT has adopted the Model Police Act drafted by Soli J. Sorabjee.

Though there was no connection between the magistrates and the police in the system established in England from 1829 onwards, the mutiny made this arrangement possible for the purpose of utilising the police primarily for the maintenance of British rule in India. All such provisions, despite having outlived their purpose long ago, still continue to exist not only in the States' Police Acts but also in the criminal codes. It is no wonder then that the District Superintendent of Police is unable to transfer his Station House Officers without the approval of the District Magistrate in U.P.; the performance appraisal report of a Superintendent of Police is still written by the District Magistrate in some States (including Chhattisgarh) despite the Supreme Court's directions to the contrary; and the introduction of the police commissionerate system in metropolitan areas (as per the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code) is always resisted tooth and nail.

Years of significance

The year 1861 was a turning point for the police in India. Though the process of drafting the IPC had begun much earlier in 1834, the revolt of 1857 gave a fillip to the drafting of the Police Act and laid the foundation for an organised police force, albeit a weak one. The main objective then was to use the police as a weapon of repression and strengthen the hold the British had over India. The prevention (and detection) of crime was never their priority. Most of the constabulary was illiterate and not paid even a 'living wage'. It was therefore not surprising that Andrew H.L. Fraser, who headed the Police Commission (1902-03), concluded that the "police force is far from efficient; it is defective in training and organisation ... it is generally regarded as corrupt and oppressive; and it has utterly failed to secure the confidence and cordial co-operation of people".

Though the Commission felt the urgent need of introducing radical reforms, the recommendations made were not revolutionary in character. Except for the introduction of the post of direct sub-inspectors (for police stations) and the rank of deputy superintendent of police for natives, not much was accepted and implemented by the Secretary of State on account of financial constraints. The Commission's recommendation of providing quarters to sub-inspectors and officers of lower rank in each province was accepted. The status of inspectors was on a par with Tehsildars. The Commission was against the application of statistical tests to judge the work of police officers. Most importantly, its report was discussed in detail, agreed upon major issues in principle, and accepted partially due to economic factors.

Since much water has flown under the bridge since 1861, serious attention is needed to address impending issues. While some police reforms may require additional funding, much of the trust deficit can be bridged by improving soft skills and ensuring investigation in an impartial manner. Unwanted and mechanical arrests need to be stopped. More offences can be made bailable and more brought under the ambit of compounding to lighten the burden on jails. Most of it can be achieved through proper training. The use of technology and forensic techniques must be encouraged to enhance the quality of evidence. Specialised wings need to be established to deal with newer types of crime. The police should be accountable only for their constitutional goal of establishing the rule of law. The shackles of 1861 must go.

R.K. Vij is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh. Views are personal

A road map for India-EU ties

India and EU should not let divergence of views on some issues overwhelm the convergence of views on other areas

RAJESH MEHTA & MOHIT ANAND

While India celebrates its 75th year of Independence, it also celebrates 60 years of diplomatic relations with the European Union (EU). A cooperation agreement signed in 1994 took the bilateral relationship beyond trade and economic cooperation. The first India-EU Summit, in June 2000, marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship. At the fifth India-EU Summit in 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership'. The two sides adopted a Joint Action Plan in 2005 towards strengthening dialogue and consultation mechanisms in the political and economic spheres, enhancing trade and investment, and bringing peoples and cultures together. The 15th India-EU Summit, in July 2020, provided a common road map to guide joint action and further strengthen the partnership over the next five years. The road map highlights engagement across five domains: foreign policy and security cooperation; trade and economy; sustainable modernisation partnership; global governance; and people-to-people relations.

Areas of cooperation

The India-EU partnership has grown rapidly ever since. Bilateral trade between the two surpassed $116 billion in 2021-22. The EU is India's second largest trading partner after the U.S., and the second largest destination for Indian exports. There are 6,000 European companies in the country that directly and indirectly create 6.7 million jobs.

Beyond the economic partnership, India and the EU have several avenues of collaboration. For example, the 'green strategic partnership' between India and Denmark aims to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the India-Nordic Summit in May focused on green technologies and industry transformation that are vital for sustainable and inclusive growth. All this will act as a catalyst for enhanced cooperation between the two regions.

Cooperation with the EU in the defence sector has also increased substantially. This is critical for India at this juncture, to reduce its hardware dependence on Russia in the backdrop of the Ukraine conflict and seek diversification of its armament imports from other regions with latest technologies in wake of its confrontation with China. India and the EU regularly conduct joint military and naval exercises which reflects on their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. The first maritime security dialogue between the two in 2021 focused on cooperation in maritime domain awareness, capacity-building, and joint naval activities. France's on-time delivery of 36 Rafale fighter jets and willingness to offer Barracuda nuclear attack submarines to the Indian Navy reflects the growing level of trust in their relationships. Leading European defence equipment manufacturers are willing to partner with Indian companies for defence projects aligned with the 'Make in India' programme.

Another rapidly growing area of engagement is the start-up and innovation ecosystem across India and Europe. Furthermore, the Science and Technology Joint Steering Committee between the two focus on areas such as healthcare, Artificial Intelligence, and earth sciences. In 2020, there was an agreement for research and development cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of India.

Challenges

However, challenges remain. Both have differing opinions and divergent interests in some areas. India's reluctance to explicitly condemn Russia's intervention in Ukraine, and the country's increasing economic cooperation with Russia, has been one area of disagreement. India has called out the EU's double standards on the same, for the EU purchases 45% of its gas imports from Russia in 2021. There is also ambiguity on the EU's strategy in tackling the rise of China. Its muted response during the Galwan clash is a case in point. India's economic, political and demographic weight could be deftly leveraged by the EU to counterbalance China's influence across the region. But there seems to be some hesitancy about this.

India and the EU should not let such divergences of views overwhelm the many areas of convergence among them. The proactive resumption of the ambitious India-EU free trade and investment agreement in 2021 is a step in the right direction. European partners acknowledge India as an important pillar in ensuring stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The EU wants to be more than just a trading bloc and is seeking alliances with like-minded countries like India. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar rightly said, " [India and the EU] are each political and economic poles in an increasingly multipolar world. Our ability to work together, therefore, can shape global outcomes."

Rajesh Mehta is an expert on international affairs and Mohit Anand is Professor of International Business and Strategy at EMLYON Business School, France

STATE OF PLAY

Down but not out

Eknath Shinde faces stiff challenge in the form of Aaditya Thackeray's outreach rallies

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

By stunning everyone with his intra-party putsch and by forming the government with Devendra Fadnavis' BJP with his rebel faction of 50 MLAs, Eknath Shinde caused Uddhav Thackeray's Sena faction to lie prostrate. Mr. Thackeray struggled to control the exodus within his party, with 12 of the 19 Sena Lok Sabha MPs moving over to the Shinde camp. But Aaditya Thackeray has risen to the occasion. His cadre outreach campaign, the 'Shiv Samvad Yatra', has drawn a groundswell of support from the party rank and file across Maharashtra. As both rival factions slug it out in the Supreme Court over control of the party, the younger Thackeray has been making efforts not just to challenge the 50 rebel MLAs of the Shinde camp, but to expand the Sena well beyond its traditional pockets of Mumbai, Thane, Konkan and a part of Marathwada.

Party grapevine is that while he is being groomed as the next working president of the Sena, his brother, Tejas Thackeray, will be assigned a formidable role soon. Already, there is clamour from the young Shiv Sainiks to make Mr. Tejas Thackeray the Yuva Sena chief. Sena founder Bal Thackeray had referred to the youngest Thackeray as having taken after him, with his "sharp brains" and "aggressive spirit." Recently, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray's confidante Milind Narvekar referred to Mr. Tejas Thackeray as the "Viv Richards of the Sena".

The Shinde camp's revolt has created a vacuum which Mr. Aaditya Thackeray hopes to exploit by giving youthful faces a chance in the constituencies held by the rebel Sena MLAs. A wide field of opportunity has opened with many youths already being appointed to responsible positions in many taluks. His rallies, particularly in Mumbai, Thane, Aurangabad and the Konkan, saw an overwhelming turnout, with a large number of young Sainiks vowing to 'topple' the rebel MLAs in future elections. In fact, even in Pune, where the Sena has a nominal presence, a massive crowd smashed the car of a rebel Sena leader, Uday Samant, as a sign that the old Sena aggression was alive and kicking.

Meanwhile, despite the BJP making him Chief Minister, Mr. Shinde has had to summon all his sangfroid to keep the aspirations of his rebel faction in check. Many of the rebel Sena MLAs have served more than four terms on average. This has meant few opportunities for political advancement among their younger colleagues in these constituencies. Keeping his faction happy has meant some hard bargaining with the BJP, as evinced by Mr. Shinde's frequent visits to Delhi. There have already been rumblings of dissent within the rebel camp. While Aurangabad MLA Sanjay Shirsat, a key face of the revolt, has been sulking for not being given a Cabinet berth, Abdul Sattar, another influential leader from Aurangabad, was reportedly threatening to leave the rebel camp if he was not inducted. He was eventually sworn in as a Minister. The 11 independent MLAs who supported Mr. Shinde are also upset at not being given Cabinet berths.

In his rallies, Mr. Aaditya Thackeray has said the government will soon fall as the "traitors" bicker over positions. Crediting Mr. Uddhav Thackeray's astute helmsmanship in steering Maharashtra out of COVID-19, the young Thackeray has stressed the Sena's bent towards 'social service' rather than crass political gain. In many ways, his rallies mark a return to the brass tacks when the party was expanding in the late 1960s and 1970s. Whether or not the support on the ground translates into votes for the Thackeray faction in 2024, Mr. Shinde will have to reckon with Mr. Aaditya Thackeray's 'Sena 2.0' in the near future.

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DATA POINT

How States have fared on health

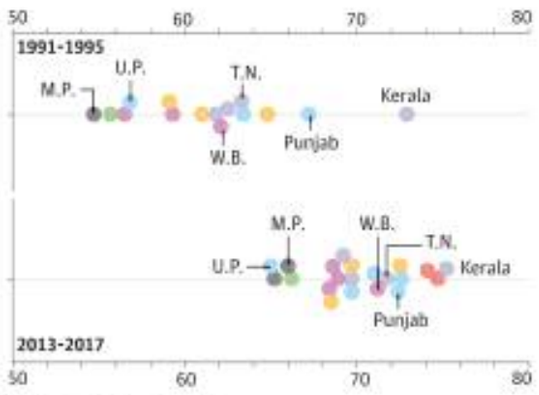
After 75 years of Independence, there is a stark difference among the States on key health metrics. In general, many north-eastern, western and southern States, especially Kerala, perform better than the rest. Union Territories perform better than the big States in many parameters. The eastern, central and some northern States, especially Madhya Pradesh, lag behind the others.

Regions: North (●), South (●), East (●), Northeast (●), West (●), Central India (●) and Union Territory (●).

By **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

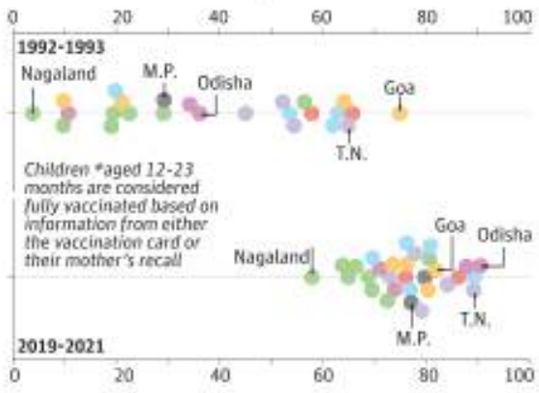
Life expectancy at birth: 1991-95 vs 2013-17

1 With an average life expectancy of 72.9 and 75.2 during the early 1990s and 2013-17 respectively, Kerala remained the State with the highest life expectancy at birth. Madhya Pradesh had the lowest life expectancy (54.7) in the 1991-95 period, whereas Uttar Pradesh took its place with a life expectancy of 65 in the 2013-17 period. Life expectancy is the average number of years that an individual is likely to live if exposed to the same mortality conditions until death



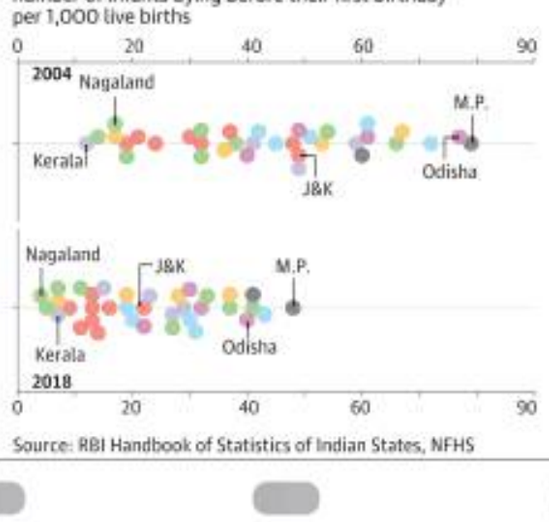
Vaccination: 1992-93 vs 2019-21

3 Compared to the 35.4% of children aged 12-23 months who were fully vaccinated* in India in 1992-93, more than 75% of children in this age group were fully vaccinated in 2019-21. In 1992-93, Goa had the highest vaccination coverage (74.9%), while in 2019-21, coverage was highest in Odisha (90.5%). With a vaccination coverage of 3.8%, Nagaland had the lowest share in 1992-93 and continued to have the lowest share in 2019-21 too, with a coverage of 57.9%



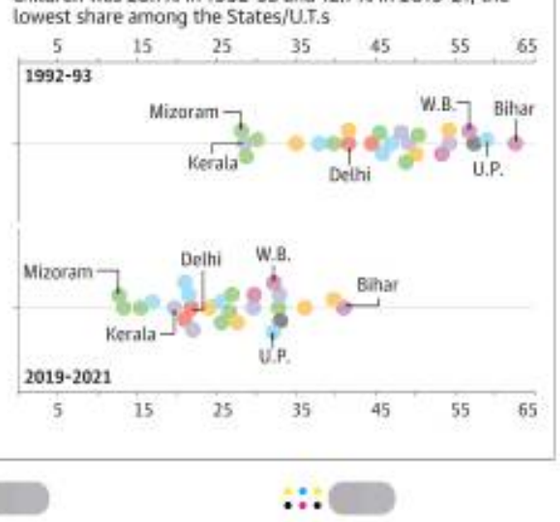
IMR: 2004 vs 2018

2 In 2004, Kerala had the lowest infant mortality rate (IMR) of 12. By 2018, with an IMR of 4, Nagaland had surpassed it. Madhya Pradesh had an IMR of 79 in 2004 and remained at the bottom of the list in 2018, with an IMR of 48. The graph depicts the IMR, which is the number of infants dying before their first birthday per 1,000 live births



Underweight children: 1992-93 vs 2019-21

4 Compared to the 53.4% in 1992-93, more than 30% of children under the age of five were underweight (weight-for-age) in India in 2019-21. Bihar had the highest share of underweight children in 1992-93 (62.6%) as well as in 2019-21 (41%). Mizoram's share of underweight children was 28.1% in 1992-93 and 12.7% in 2019-21, the lowest share among the States/U.T.s



Source: RBI Handbook of Statistics of Indian States, NFHS

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 16, 1972

'We should become beacon of peace'

New Delhi, August 15: After India relived last night the ageless moments of its emergence as a free nation 25 years ago, the Prime Minister to-day made a fervent appeal for fresh thinking to give a new meaning and content to the country's freedom to make it real for the countless millions of its poor people. In her Independence Day speech to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Mrs. Indira Gandhi exhorted her countrymen to create a united and strong India capable of pursuing its pioneering role as a beacon of peace and amity in this strife-torn world. As she unfurled the national flag from the central rampart, a 31-gun salute was fired by our artillery detachment while the vast sea of humanity that had assembled in front of the Red Fort gave a thunderous ovation. It brought back vividly the vibrant memories of the historic ceremony on the morning of August 15, 1947, when Mr. Nehru hoisted the Tri-colour over the Red Fort as a symbol of India's Independence. The Prime Minister spoke eloquently of India's commitment to freedom, secularism and socialism, and called upon the people to work hard and open up new vistas of activity for banishing poverty, illiteracy and superstition. She described India as a society in transition and stressed that there was no ready-made road or shortcut to progress except through hard work and discipline. It was quite understandable that the youth of the country was restless and clamouring for quicker results, but when a nation was entering from one era into another, some delays and difficulties were inevitable.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 16, 1922

National Medical College

Bombay, August 16: The National Medical College in Bombay has completed its first academic year in the midst of financial stringency simply because of the sacrificing spirit that inspired a dozen of the professors of the College to work without renumeration. The College has now on its rolls 221 students including 7 lady students. It has now under its possession one quite up-to-date chemical laboratory where research work in higher and industrial chemistry can be done along with a western course of medicine. The College has begun teaching of Aryurveda and arrangements are being made for the teaching of Unani next year.

FROM PAGE ONE

Country facing twin challenges, says PM

Mr. Modi dedicated a big part of his speech to hitting out at corruption, saying it was seen that some people do not have enough space to hide their illicit money while many in the country do not have enough space to live, an obvious pointer to the recovery of huge amounts of allegedly unaccounted cash and other assets during raids at the premises of some leaders of Opposition parties.

Though the Prime Minister took no names, the BJP has often referred to the Congress's nationwide protests against the Enforcement Directorate's questioning of its leaders, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, in the *National Herald* case.

Also hitting out at dynasty and nepotism, he said their presence in politics nourished this evil in all other institutions of the country. This must be ended, he said. "This nepotism harms India's talents and capabilities. This is also a reason for corruption as people resort to it when they see no other option," he said.

"In politics too, the dynasty has done the most injustice to the country's strength. Dynastic politics is aimed at a family's welfare and has no interest in the country's welfare."

A strong exhortation by the Prime Minister was made on the issue of misogyny, and speech and action that caused insult to women. He said that in the next 25 years it would be the unshackling of the talent of women in India that would lead to the country reaching its development and societal goals sooner. "When 130 crore people take one step ahead, the nation moves 130 crore steps," he said.

Ahead of his speech, Mr. Modi, dressed in a traditional *kurta* and *churidar* paired with a blue jacket and a white *safa* with tricolour stripes and a long trail as his headgear, unfurled the National Flag amid a 21-gun salute by the indigenously-developed Howitzer gun, the ATAGS.

He also paid tributes to freedom fighters and leaders from across the political spectrum, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, V.D. Savarkar, Ram Manohar Lohia, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mangal Pandey among others.

Don't belittle freedom fighters, says Congress

Separately, reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on dynastic politics, the Congress said "the Prime Minister seems to have discussed BJP's internal problems of Ministers' children usurping positions".

"Friends, we have achieved a great deal in the last 75 years, but today's self-obsessed government is bent on trivialising the great sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the glorious achievements of the country, which can never be accepted," Ms. Gandhi said, who is in self-isolation after contracting COVID, on India's 76th Independence Day.

Ms. Gandhi said that in the last 75 years, India has left an indelible mark on the international stage in the fields of science, education, health and information technology through the hard work of its talented people.

"Under the leadership of its visionary leaders, while on one hand, India established a free, fair and transparent election system, on the other, it strengthened democracy and constitutional institutions. Along with this, India has made its identity as a leading country that has always lived up to pluralism in language, religion and sect," the Congress chief said.

While former party chief Rahul Gandhi refused to comment on Mr. Modi's dynasty comment, media department head Pawan Khera said "he [Prime Minister] disappointed the country by not discussing the promises made by him in the last eight years or by not giving an account of his tenure".

Referring to the dynasty comment, Mr. Khera said, "This internal attack is on his own Ministers, be it the Home Minister, Foreign Minister or the Defence Minister and their sons".

"He talked about some political things which I feel is an internal matter of the BJP, of nepotism in the BJP, as I do not think someone has made a century at the Lord's cricket ground but is certainly holding a high position in the world of cricket, and about another Minister who did not pass the Indian Foreign Service but is holding a high position in a big think tank. So this attack was on his own Ministers and their sons, this Modi ji will himself tell," he added.

Iran justifies attack on Rushdie but denies role

His assailant, 24-year-old Hadi Matar, has pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from the attack through his lawyer. Rushdie has for more than 30 years faced death threats for *The Satanic Verses*. Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had issued a fatwa demanding his death. A semi-official Iranian foundation had put up a bounty of over $3 million for the author, though it has yet to offer any comment on the attack. Police in New York have offered no motive yet for the attack, though District Attorney Jason Schmidt alluded to the bounty on Rushdie in arguing against bail during a hearing Saturday.

"Even if this court were to set a million dollars bail, we stand a risk that bail could be met," Schmidt said.

Mr. Matar was born in the U.S. to parents who emigrated from Yaroun in southern Lebanon, according to the village's mayor.

Flags of the Iranian-backed Shiite militant group Hezbollah, along with portraits of Hezbollah and Iranian leaders, hang across the village.

In Yaroun, village records show Mr. Matar holds Lebanese citizenship and is identified as a Shiite, an official there said. The official said Mr. Matar's father still lives there but has been in seclusion since the attack.In his remarks on Monday, Mr. Kanaani added that Iran did not "have any other information more than what the American media has reported." He also implied that Mr. Rushdie brought the attack on himself. "Salman Rushdie exposed himself to popular anger and fury through insulting the sacredness of Islam and crossing the red lines of over 1.5 billion Muslims and also red lines of followers of all divine religions," Mr. Kanaani said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, while not directly blaming Tehran for the attack on Rushdie, made a point to mention Iran in a statement early Monday praising the writer's efforts in supporting freedom of expression and religion.

Practise what you preach, Opposition tells Modi govt.

Slamming PM's remark on nepotism, parties pose queries on waiving of loans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his assertions of heralding *Amrit Kaal*, advocating gender equality and finishing off nepotism. Opposition leaders said his government was in no position to preach since it had failed on all counts.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, quoting Mr. Modi's comments that corruption was damaging the country like termite, put out a news report on how in last seven years ₹10.7 lakh crore of outstanding loans had been waived by banks. Mr. Yechury tweeted.

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, in a video message posted on social media, said, "As India marks 75 years of its Independence, are we really living in *Amrit Kaal*. Is this the *Amrit Kaal* we dreamt of, where Indian rupee is weakening by the day, where prices of fuel are shooting through the roof and economy is in complete shambles," he said in a video which was posted by the Trinamool Congress. Mr. Banerjee added that no one wants this *Amrit Kaal* where instructions come from "ivory tower of Lutyen's Delhi" on what to eat, what to wear, who to work with and who to fall in love with.

CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury and CPI leader D. Raja during a press conference in Delhi in July. • FILE PHOTO

Mr. Banerjee's parliamentary colleague Derek O'Brien also took a swipe at Mr. Modi for his comments exhorting citizens to take a pledge to wipe out misogyny.

CPI general secretary D. Raja also hit out at Mr. Modi saying that if he was sincere about *nari shakti* then his government should bring in the long-pending women's reservation Bill since the BJP had the numbers in both the Houses of Parliament.

Taking a dig at Mr. Modi's remarks on nepotism, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday said, "Not just 'parivarvaad' (dynasty) but 'dostvaad' (favouring friends) should also be ended to cleanse the country from corruption.

He said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has given a "blueprint" to take the country on the path of progress through an overhaul of school education and healthcare systems in five years, and appealed to Modi to rise above politics and implement it.

(With inputs from PTI)

'Fundamental duties key to social transformation'

CJI Ramana remembers Pingali

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Monday said fundamental duties in the Constitution are not merely to serve a "pedantic or technical" purpose, they are meant to guide citizens engineer a social transformation.

"Our Constitution is the fundamental document which regulates the relationship between the citizens and the government. While it has granted us inalienable rights, it places upon us certain fundamental duties. The fundamental duties are not merely pedantic or technical. They were incorporated as the key to social transformation," Chief Justice Ramana said in his Independence Day address at the Supreme Court.

Our framers imagined a nation, where citizens are aware, alert and able to make the right decisions, the Chief Justice said. Highlighting the spirit of unity in diversity, the CJI said "our system will truly belong to the people when we honor and cherish our diversity".

Chief Justice Ramana remembered the freedom fighter and Gandhian, Keertiseshulu Sri Pingali Venkayya, who "designed the pride and identity of Independent India, our National Flag".

The CJI said the apex court has inherited the backlog of nearly a year on the account of pandemic and resultant lockdowns.

"In the last 16 months, we could physically assemble for only 55 days. I wish situation was different and we could be more productive. It is just and natural for people to have high expectations, but regrettably, the forces of nature were against us. I hope in near future, situation will become normal and courts will function to the full potential," the CJI said.

Srinagar to get 'Gaurav Stambh': Manoj Sinha

Museum in the city will inspire new generation, says L-G

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Describing Jammu and Kashmir as "the land of Mother Saraswati and enlightened dream of Chaitanya", Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha, in his Independence Day speech in Srinagar, said a 'Gaurav Stambh' will be established in Srinagar in the memory of the brave soldiers, who have sacrificed their lives defending our beloved motherland.

"I have full faith that the immortal flame of 'Gaurav Stambh' and the museum of our brave hearts will inspire the new generation. I am proud of the brave hearts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police who have received 125 gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day," L-G Sinha said.

Manoj Sinha

"This is the land of Mother Saraswati, abode of all virtues and the enlightened dream of Chaitanya. From Mount Harmukh to the summits of Vindhyas, from Jhelum to Prayag Sangam, from Bhedagiri to Baba Kedarnath, every breath, every heartbeat carries the fragrance of Hindustan and the aspirations for the supreme glory of the Tricolour," he said.

He said there may be thousands and lakhs of obstacles and challenges, but every Indian should unite to fight these challenges and be the architect of the future of India - this is the resolution of Independence Day. Mr. Sinha said the days of militancy, corruption, and fear have come to an end in J&K.

"No one will display Pakistan's flag here now as everyone here is hoisting the flag of the country which they love. There is no room for violence here," he said. He called upon every section of the society "to take a pledge to make J&K Nasha-Mukt, Bhrashtachar-Mukt and Roojgar-Yukt".

'J&K accepted flag with constitutional guarantee'

People were threatened to hoist Tricolour: former CM Mufti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said people in Kashmir were threatened to hoist the Tricolour, as she posted a photograph on social media showing India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru addressing a crowd as the erstwhile J&K State flag stood next to the National Flag.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah also changed his display picture on the eve of Independence Day. The picture showed Mr. Abdullah hoisting the Tricolour as the Chief Minister.

Mehbooba Mufti

"Jawaharlal Nehru standing tall between two flags, the Indian National Flag and J&K's State flag adopted constitutionally in 1952 and bulldozed in 2019 to fulfil BJPs divisive agenda. Now, every foundational value that the Indian flag stands for too lies in peril," Ms. Mufti said.

The PDP chief said the people of J&K had accepted the Indian flag in October 1947 "but on certain conditions and constitutional guarantees like their own flag and a separate constitution, way before BJP's ideological parent - the RSS accepted it".

Ms. Mufti said the J&K administration was "shamelessly boasting about Kashmiris hoisting the Indian flag".

"Truth is they were threatened to do so or else face the consequences. Post 75 years of accession, the GOI (Government of India) used all the might at its disposal to force people here to join its charade of pseudo and monetised patriotism," she added.

In a first, Kashmir saw the Tricolour being hoisted on the houses of slain and active militants.

World leaders wish India on Independence Day

Biden recalls the Mahatma's message of truth while Putin lauds country's role in international issues

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India's place on the world stage is "rightfully" earned, said Russian President Vladimir Putin, as part of a number of congratulatory messages the government received on India's 76th Independence Day on Monday.

While U.S. President Joseph Biden lauded Indian democracy, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's message of "truth and non-violence", Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese spoke of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's call to Indians in 1947. Both French President Emmanuel Macron and former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sent messages of congratulations in English and Hindi.

Mindblowing view: Cinquantenaire Park in Brussels is lit up with the colours of the Indian Flag • TWITTER/@INDEMBASSYBRU

Bhutan sends wishes

India also received messages from the neighbourhood, including Bhutan, whose PM Lotay Tshering wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, calling this a "historic" moment for India that "reinforces the global significance of diversity for a society to progress", and from Maldives Foreign Minister and U.N. General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid.

At a function in Delhi to mourn the assassination of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Imran congratulated India on its Independence Day and spoke of the strength of bilateral ties. In Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said, "India is today becoming a world power; that is a tribute to Pandit Nehru", referring to Nehru's "tryst with destiny" speech.

Significantly, in his 82-minute speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of global conflict but made no reference to the Indian foreign policy, a departure from the past speeches at the Red Fort when Mr. Modi has spoken of India's bilateral ties, challenges from cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, or the problem in Balochistan, as well as transgressions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by China.

"In the period of 'holier than thou' mentality, today the world is facing a severe crisis due to conflicts caused by the attitude of one one-upmanship -- the reason for all tensions," Mr. Modi said.

"India rightfully enjoys considerable prestige on the world stage and plays an important constructive role in resolving pressing issues on the international agenda," wrote Mr. Putin in a joint letter to President Droupadi Murmu and Mr. Modi.

Aim to create 20 lakh jobs, says Nitish

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day before his government's Cabinet expansion, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, while delivering Independence Day speech on Monday, announced that his government aimed to create 20 lakh jobs – within and outside the government – in the State.

"We're now together and our concept is that we should at least make it [jobs] to 10 lakh but we'll arrange jobs and employment on such a scale within the government and outside it that it is to take up to 20 lakh", announced Mr. Kumar.

Ambika Soni hoists Tricolour at AICC office

It is seen as a political signal ahead of the party's poll to elect a new president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As Congress president Sonia Gandhi is yet to recover from her second bout of COVID-19, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Ambika Soni on Monday hoisted the National Flag at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in the presence of former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders.

The flag-hoisting by a Congress leader who is not a member of the Gandhi family, barely weeks before the party is scheduled to elect a new party president, assumes significance for the political signal it sends about the party's leadership issue.

Change of guard: Ambika Soni after hoisting the National Flag at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

As *The Hindu* had reported a week ago, Mr. Gandhi is said to have argued with his colleagues that he doesn't need to become the party chief to carry on his fight against the Narendra Modi government.

With Mr. Gandhi's reluctance being talked about privately, a section of the party is said to be pushing for the early completion of organisational polls before the party undertakes the Kanyakumari to Kashmir *Bharat Jodo Yatra* from September 7, a programme in which Mr. Gandhi is expected to participate extensively.

On Monday, Mr. Gandhi joined other top party leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, K.C. Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Jairam Ramesh, and hundreds of party workers in the *Azadi Gaurav Yatra* from the party headquarters to Gandhi Smriti on Tees January Road, the place where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated.

Congress workers raised slogans like "*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*", "*Amar shaheedon tumhe naman* (salutation to martyrs)" and "Rahul *tum sangharsh karo, hum tumhare saath hain* (Rahul, fight on, we are with you)" during the march.

IN BRIEF

Gujarat CM hikes DA for government staff

AHMEDABAD

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday announced a 3% hike in the Dearness Allowance for government employees and expansion of welfare schemes under the National Food Security Act. It is applicable to employees under the 7th Pay Commission, with effect from January 1. Some 9.38 lakh employees will get the benefit, he added. PTI

'Will provide reservation benefits to Marathas'

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said his government's priority is to work for the common man and it is committed to extending the reservation benefits to the Other Backward Classes, Maratha and Dhangar communities. Speaking on the country's 76th Independence Day at the secretariat, Mr. Shinde said several parts of the State have witnessed floods due to heavy rainfall. PTI

India needs to be self-reliant: Bhagwat

NAGPUR

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday said India got freedom after a lot of struggle and it needs to be self-reliant. Addressing a gathering at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, Mr. Bhagwat said the country will give the message of peace to the world. He also said people should think what they can give to the country rather than ask what the country or society is giving them. PTI

Joyous occasion: As a drizzle falls over the Motilal Nehru Stadium in Bhopal, a police contingent marches to mark 75 years of India's independence; dancers perform at a cultural programme in Srinagar; people unfurl a long Tricolour in Ahmedabad; and a girl dressed as Kittur Queen Chennamma arrives on horseback to celebrate in Hubbali. •A.M. FARUQUI, NISSAR AHMAD, VIJAY SONEJI, KIRAN BARALE

Turning 75 in the embrace of spirited festivities and stiff security

MI-17 1V helicopters shower flower petals and a made-in-India howitzer joins the ceremonial 21-gun salute

SAMRIDHI TEWARI
ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on the Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Monday, amid a multi-layered security cover, where facial recognition system cameras, IP-based CCTVs and 10,000 Delhi Police personnel were deployed in and around the Red Fort.

Amid a light drizzle throughout, 75 metre-long scrolls featuring notable freedom fighters from all over India fluttered in the cool morning breeze, hanging from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Those featured included the likes of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Saifuddin Kitchlew from Jammu and Kashmir among others.

While this year too, the security arrangements included setting up shipping containers to close off the premises, the containers were painted in colours of the flag and the logo of the government's *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* campaign. The boundary walls of the Red Fort were adorned with paintings of tribal art and scenes depicting local Indians in conflict with the British security forces.

Guard of Honour

The celebrations kicked off around 7 a.m. with the Guard of Honour, consisting of one officer and 20 men each from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Delhi Police, led by Wing Commander Kunal Khanna.

The Prime Minister arrived at the Red Fort from the Rajghat, after paying obeisance to Mahatma Gandhi, following which he inspected the Guard of Honour and went up to the ramparts where he was greeted by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt and the three Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Squadron leader Sunita Yadav then assisted Mr. Modi as he unfurled the tricolour atop the Red Fort and the Air Force band started playing the National Anthem, which was synchronised with the ceremonial 21-gun salute, fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 8711 Field Battery.

Glorious celebrations: Navy personnel march during the Independence Day function at the Red Fort in New Delhi. •PTI

As the audience stood up for the National Anthem with the Prime Minister, the loud booms of the home-grown howitzer gun, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), developed under the government's 'Make in India' initiative, echoed around the Red Fort with the ceremonial 21-gun salute.

After the Prime Minister concluded his speech, nearly 800 cadets of the National Cadet Corps, assembled in the shape of the map of India, led the singing of the National Anthem. On his way out, Mr. Modi, in an impromptu move, stopped his convoy to get off and meet the cadets.

Thousands of people, including government officials, their families, and special invitees (anganwadi workers, mortuary workers, Mudra beneficiaries, street vendors, and officers and cadets from 14 different countries visiting India on an exchange programme) attended the event.

CCTVs installed

For security at the event, more than 10,000 personnel of the Delhi Police were deployed at the Red Fort. The police installed facial recognition cameras (FRS) around the area for face detection and to monitor movement. More than 1,000 Internet Protocol-based CCTV cameras were also put up in and around the area, the police said.

Security personnel, including teams of the Delhi Police, Central Armed Police Force (CRPF) jawans and commandos, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG), Special Units, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) guarded entry checkpoints outside the Red Fort.

PM Modi stops cavalcade to interact with NCC cadets

Those from Gujarat and Punjab perform a dance for PM

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on his way out of the Red Fort after addressing the nation on its 76th Independence Day, in an impromptu move, he stopped his cavalcade in front of the Gyan Path – directly in front of the ramparts from where he had unfurled the Tricolour – and got out of his car.

Here, 792 boys and girls of the National Cadet Corps had assembled, seated in the geographical shape of the map of India. These cadets, dressed in the traditional attire of each of their States and U.T.s, had led the National Anthem after the Prime Minister concluded his address.

Passing the cadets on his way out of the Red Fort, Mr. Modi got off his car and took about 15 minutes to go around Gyan Path and meet and interact with as many of the cadets as possible. He started his interaction with cadets of southern States such as Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Kerala and worked his way around meeting cadets from West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Ladakh, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanges greetings with NCC cadets at the Red Fort in New Delhi. •PTI

At one point, the Prime Minister stopped to chat with the cadets who had arrived from Ladakh. He also managed to coax the cadets from Punjab to perform a small dance piece before him, before moving to the group from Gujarat, who performed Garba for him.

The cadets there later said that interacting with the Prime Minister this closely inspired them to continue wanting to serve the nation. Sixteen-year-old Bhaironand Tiwari from Bihar's Buxar said, "We felt so nice meeting him, it gave us inspiration to stick with our wishes to serve the country."

Writers call for freedom of expression in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 100 notable international writers and artists on Monday expressed concern over the state of freedom of expression in India and urged President Droupadi Murmu to support democratic ideals.

A group of 102 writers, including Marina Abramovic, Paul Auster, J.M. Coetzee, Jennifer Egan, Jonathan Franzen, Azar Nafisi, and Orhan Pamuk, joined the writers' organisations, PEN America and PEN International, in signing the letter to Ms. Murmu, a statement by PEN America said.

The letter urged Ms. Murmu to support free expression in the spirit of India's Independence.

"Free expression is the cornerstone of a robust democracy. By weakening this, all other rights are at risk and the promises made at India's birth are compromised," the letter said.

Remembering the Mahatma's mission of peace on I-Day

Gandhi Bhawan in Kolkata felt as lonely on this occasion as it had been in 1947

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The gates of Hyderi Manzil, or Gandhi Bhawan, as it is called these days, remained closed till 10 a.m. on August 15, 2022, when the caretaker of the building arrived and started wiping a marble statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the courtyard.

The national flag was unfurled only after spells of rain stopped, well past 11 a.m., with a dozen people who disappeared as quietly as they had arrived.

A pocket watch, a lantern, wooden slippers, charkhas, a metal tumbler, and a walking stick; all personal items used by Gandhi remain in the fasting room, which hardly had any visitors today. Termites have surfaced on the very first frame of the yet-to-be inaugurated exhibition on the Father of the Nation.

The Gandhi Bhawan in Kolkata.

Gandhi Bhawan felt as lonely on this occasion as it was on August 15, 1947, when Gandhi stayed in this single-storey house on the day the country got its freedom. "As it happened, Mahatma Gandhi was not present at the festivities in the capital on August 15, 1947. He was in Calcutta (now Kolkata), but did not attend any function or hoist a flag there either. Gandhiji marked the day with a 24-hour fast," one of the panels of the exhibition reads.

"He was residing at this address, Hyderi Manzil, which was decorated with the Indian Tricolor by Hindu and Muslim volunteers," it says, highlighting the historical significance of the place.

When Gandhi decided to stay in Kolkata, he purposely chose Hyderi Manzil in Beleghata, a prominent Muslim neighbourhood.

In 1947, Mahatma Gandhi was meant to go to riot-torn Noakhali (now in Bangladesh) but was entreated by many to save Kolkata. He arrived at Gandhi Bhawan a few days before August 15 and stayed here till September 6. It was at this building that Gandhi went on a fast on September 1 when communal violence erupted again in parts of the city.

The fast continued for 73 hours, after which many who were rioting came to Gandhi and surrendered their weapons.

The exhibition, spread over 3,000 sq ft inside the historic Gandhi Bhawan with dozens of panels on different events in Gandhiji's life, is waiting to be inaugurated. The officials of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department of the West Bengal government said they are waiting for a date from "higher authorities" to inaugurate the exhibition.

Submarine deal is unrealistic: Russia

'The project can't move forward without changes'

DINAKAR PERI
MOSCOW

Russia, which has pulled out of the Indian Navy's tender for the construction of six advanced submarines under Project-75I, has informed India that it cannot meet the terms and conditions for the ₹40,000 crore project.

Terming it unrealistic, a senior Russian official said on Monday that without any change in the entire process, the process cannot move forward.

"The requirement stated in the Request For Proposal (RFP) demanded very strict timelines and a lot of responsibility to the designer. At the same time, the designer has no control over the construction, which happens in India," said Andrey Baranov, Deputy Director General, Rubin Design Bureau, speaking at the Army-2022 expo.

"We are the first ones to leave the project and the last one to leave the project is France," he said.

Andrey Baranov

Stating that the project is very good as far as design is concerned, Mr. Baranov said that where the implementation in India is concerned, "it is not so good and so there is nothing happening."

"So, without any changes in the entire process, nothing will happen," he added.

Relaxation sought

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the Defence Ministry has once again extended the deadline to submit responses from June 30 by another six months till December end, and the Navy has also approached the Ministry for relaxation of certain specifications that have made most submarine manufacturers non-compliant. The deal is the first under the Strategic Partnership model of the procurement procedure to make progress.

Their major concern is the requirements specified by the Indian Navy and the arrangement for this are not matching, Mr. Baranov said.

He added that the Indian Navy would like transfer of technology, have state of the art submarine with powerful missiles, and stealth but none of the world Navies have prototype of similar submarine. So, we are talking of development of an absolutely new submarine, he said.

Mr. Baranov noted that the key part of the RFP is that construction will be done in India and if the timelines are not met, the "penalties are very high".

"We have been saying from the beginning that building the first submarine of the class is not possible within this timeline," Mr. Baranov stated.

"We understand that when the first ship of the class is constructed, there will be lot of problems which is natural for the process of development," he added.

Investment being planned in shipyard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MOSCOW

In line with the requirement of 'Make in India' which requires foreign defence companies to manufacture in the country, Russia is looking to invest in Indian shipyard, a senior Russian official said on Monday.

The official stated that they have overcome dependency on Ukraine for ship engines and are also offering them to India.

"We would like to participate in 'Make in India' and are preparing to build a full fledged campus in India. We want to become a shareholder in a shipbuilding yard in India. We understand that there are a bunch of interesting options still in front of us and hopefully we will quickly make up our mind," said Alexey Rakhmanov, Director General of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) of Russia.

Clinical trial for Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine completed

N. RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Clinical trials of Bharat Biotech's intranasal COVID vaccine candidate as a primary (two) dose and a heterologous booster dose have been completed and the data has been submitted for approval to national regulatory authorities.

BBV154, the vaccine, has proven to be safe, well-tolerated and immunogenic in controlled clinical trials, the vaccine maker said, announcing submission of the data on completion of the trials in which nearly 4,000 volunteers participated.

"On this Independence Day, we are proud to announce successful completion of clinical trials for BBV154 intranasal vaccine. If approved, this vaccine will make it easier to deploy in mass immunisation campaigns with an easy-to-administer formulation and delivery device," Joint Managing Director Suchitra K. Ella said.

Being intranasal, it may produce local antibodies in the upper respiratory tract which may provide the potential to reduce infection and transmission. Further studies are being planned, the company said.

Two separate and simultaneous trials were conducted to evaluate as a primary, two dose schedule and as a heterologous booster dose for those who have previously received two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin vaccines.

The trials were conducted in 14 sites across the country.

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit – III, Bhubaneswar -751 001
Tel. : (0674) 2380608 Website : www.osmcl.nic.in,
Email : proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

Notification No. 5857/OSMCL/2022 Dt.: 12.08.2022

Notice Inviting Re-Tender For Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintaining the Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyzer on Reagent Rental Basis

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation, commissioning & maintaining of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST
1	OSMCL/2022-23/ BIOCHEMISTRY ANALYZER REAGENT RENTAL/11	Re-tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintaining the Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyzer on Reagent Rental Basis	Rs 5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	12/08/2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre bid meeting	19/08/2022, 11 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit – III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 25.08.2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time 09.09.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	12.09.2022, 3.00 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and other terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in. OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

By the Order's of Managing Director, OSMCL
Sd/-
GM - Operations (Equipment), OSMCL

CAD-1485 OIPR-10112/11/0032/2223

Panel moots district-level survey to bring more children into adoption ambit

Experts stress on the need to look beyond custodial requirements of children and focus on rights, bringing more children in need into government's safety net

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In a country with millions of orphans, there are only 2,430 children available for adoption while the number of parents desiring to bring home a child is growing rapidly. To address this paradox, a Parliamentary panel has recommended district-level surveys to proactively identify orphaned and abandoned children.

A report recently tabled on "Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws" in Parliament by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice has said, "it is important to get a true picture of number of children who are orphaned/abandoned through a district-level survey and the data needs to be updated on a regular basis."

It has suggested that a monthly meeting chaired by the District Magistrate should be held in every district to "ensure that orphan and abandoned children found begging in streets are produced before the Child Welfare Committee and are made available for adoption at the earliest."

According to the report, there were 27,939 prospective parents registered with the Child Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) as on December 2021, up from nearly 18,000 in 2017. In comparison, though there were a total 6,996 orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children residing in childcare institutions considered adoptable, only 2,430 were declared "legally free" for adoption by Child Welfare Committees. The waiting time for adoption too has increased to three years from one year in the past five years. The total number of children adopted in 2021-2022 was only 3,175.

Many in need: There were 27,939 prospective parents registered with the Child Adoption Resource Authority as on December 2021. •AFP

Experts say the reason there are only 2,430 children found to be legally free for adoption in a country with an estimated 3.1 crore orphans (defined in the report as loss of either or both parent) according to the 2020 Orphan Report of IHH Humanitarian and Social Research Center (INSAMER) is because of the failure to bring more children in need of care into the government's safety net. And that is why they welcome the suggestion for a district-level survey, but call for a need to exercise caution.

Call for caution

"The point should not be to track more children and put them into adoption, but to not leave children out of the safety net...otherwise poor people will have their children snatched away. We have to provide a family for a child, not vice versa," says child rights and adoption expert Nilima Mehta.

There are 6,525 child care institutions registered under the Juvenile Justice Act as on September 30, 2021, according to the government's reply in the Lok Sabha. Why then are there only 6,996 identified as adoptable?

A mapping exercise of childcare institutions by the Women and Child Development Ministry in its report in 2018 found that of the total 3.7 lakh children in need of care and protection in these homes, the largest category of children were

SPECIAL

those who had a single parent at 32% or 1.2 lakh children, while those without any parent were just 11% or 41,730 out of the total.

"Children in CCIs are there for various reasons such as for shelter or protection or care or for whatever reason their family is not able to look after them. These are used by vulnerable families more as hostels or spaces where there is access to education, food, shelter and clothing," says Dr. Mehta.

Dr. Mehta says in order to link children to nurturing families there is a need for a paradigm shift that looks beyond "custodial" needs such as food and shelter and focuses on their rights.

"Many children are under parental care, but not optimal care. There are parents abusing their own children or neglecting them. We must have a zero tolerance towards abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect of children and then have an adequate safety net so that they get the help they need. The failure to do so also leads to malpractices, which is what the centralisation of adoptions in 2015 aimed to curb," she says.

IN BRIEF

Man held for aiding militants with 2-wheeler

SRINAGAR

The Srinagar police on Monday arrested one Umer Mukhtar Naqeeb from Srinagar's Natipora for "providing a two-wheeler to militants", which was seized after a shootout in the Jammu and Kashmir capital on Sunday evening that left one policeman dead. He had reportedly given a second-hand scooter to active terrorist Momin Gulzar on July 27 this year, a police spokesperson said.

Dalit MLA resigns over Inder Meghwal's death

JAIPUR

Two days after the death of nine-year-old Dalit boy Inder Meghwal in Rajasthan's Jalore district, Pana Chand Meghwal, a Dalit MLA of the ruling Congress on Monday sent in his resignation to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, saying he had "no moral right" to stay in the government after the incident. "It hurts me to see the way the Dalits are persecuted even 75 years after Independence," he said.

₹2 lakh award for dam management effort

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a reward of ₹2 lakh each for the drivers of earth-moving machines engaged in averting a disaster after a dam wall breach in Dhar. He said the danger was looming large after a leak was seen in an under-construction dam on the Karam. "But this danger has now been averted. This was the best example of disaster management," he said. PTI

'Kerala is a brand, investors are coming'

Industries Minister P. Rajeev says the State has gained a name for its environmental consciousness

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
NEW DELHI

Kerala's 'Year of Enterprises' drive that aims to start one lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is well on target with tremendous achievements within the first quarter itself, State Industries Minister P. Rajeev has said.

The State had announced financial year 2022-23 as the Year of Enterprises. In the first four months, work on more than 45,000 MSMEs have started, with an investment of ₹2,687.91 crore. They are expected to create nearly one lakh jobs, the Minister said. All projects up to ₹50 crore investment in MSME sector can self certify all regulatory requirements and start operations, he added.

P. Rajeev

In an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu* in the national capital, the Minister said Kerala was building on the international reputation it gained with its uniquely successful management of the pandemic to turn the State into an attractive investment destination. Investors and companies conscious of ESG – Environmental, Social, and Governance – factors, a global trend now, will find Kerala extremely attractive, according to the Minister.

"Environmental and social consciousness is very high in the State. We are developing an industry-friendly environment that the world finds attractive and is suitable for the particularities of the State...From handicrafts to pharmaceuticals and from food to textiles, we are in the process of building a Kerala brand," the Minister said.

Mr. Rajeev said a new initiative to encourage private players to consolidate land parcels for industrial purposes will go a long way in dealing with a critical challenge. There is a ceiling of 15 acres for land ownership in Kerala. Private players with a minimum of 10 acres of land can apply online to obtain the Private Industrial Estate Developer Permit.

Infra subsidy

"The government will give them up to ₹3 crore as subsidy to develop the infrastructure. Entrepreneurs can consolidate that much land, develop infrastructure and sell or rent it out for industrial purposes. The township will be exempt from local body regulations," said the Minister.

If the proposed project is on more than 15 acres, the government will quickly provide an exemption from land ceiling to get the project on, he added.

Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KELTRON), a public sector unit that had collapsed, is being revived and turned into a catalyst for electronics manufacturing in the State, the Minister said.

"We should remember that when KELTRON was started in 1973, South Korea was starting off its electronics manufacturing sector. We are rekindling that vision, and PSU is all set to reach a turnover of ₹1,000 crore in two years," the Minister said, noting that it has already started making profits.

"Reviving public sector units is part of our strategy. And we have large number of private players coming to Kerala. The State is home to 10 unicorns and the startup ecosystem has become vibrant," the Minister said.

V. Kalidas, former V-P of *The Hindu*, passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

V. Kalidas, former vice-president, Advertisement, *The Hindu*, died in New York on Sunday after a sudden illness. He was 80.

He worked with *The Hindu* for nearly 45 years. Having started his career in Kolkata, he moved to Mumbai and then Chennai. Fondly known as Kali, he has written many columns on various themes, including music, arts, travel and Chennai.

Kalidas also authored a book *Through the Kaleidoscope*, which was published in 2021, about his experiences in the advertising field in a career that spanned four decades in three cities. He had also penned interesting anecdotes of his experiences in these cities.

V. Kalidas

His family members recalled his deep knowledge of English literature, music, scriptures and yoga. During the later years, he learnt to play the piano as well. He was also known for his public speaking skills.

He is survived by his wife Akila and children Prahlad and Sridevi, their spouses and five grandchildren.

Man detained over threat calls to Mukesh Ambani

This is second such incident this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Monday took a man into custody for issuing threats to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family.

Three calls were received around 11 a.m. on the landline number of Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre managed by the Reliance Foundation and located at Girgaon in South Mumbai.

"Reliance Foundation has filed a complaint about the threat calls to Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and his family. More than three calls were received at the hospital. A probe is underway," read the police statement.

One Afzal has been detained in Dahisar in this case.

Second threat

This is the second time Mr. Ambani has received threats, the first time was on February 24, 2021, when a car was found outside his residence in Mumbai containing 20 gelatin sticks and a note threatening the family.

An FIR was registered regarding this at Gamdevi police station.

3D-printed cornea put to test in a rabbit

No synthetic components used, say scientists

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Researchers from Hyderabad have 3D-printed a cornea and transplanted it into a rabbit's eye.

A team of clinicians and scientists from the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), have collaborated to develop the 3D-printed cornea from the human donor corneal tissue, which would have otherwise been discarded for not meeting optical standards for clinical transplantation.

The technical team behind the innovation.

The printed corneas need to undergo further clinical testing and development before they can be used in patients, which could take several years. The team is hopeful of a positive outcome.

While corneal substitutes are being actively researched throughout the world, they are either animal-based or synthetic. The Hyderabad-based team said that their product is completely natural, contains no synthetic components, and is free of animal residues. It is developed indigenously through government and philanthropic funding.

Corneal damage is the leading cause of blindness worldwide with more than 1.5 million new cases of corneal blindness reported every year.

Pointing at the wide gap between the demand and supply of donor corneal tissue worldwide, and lack of adequate eye banking networks, they said that less than 5% of new cases every year are treated by corneal transplantations.

Much-needed innovation

Dr. Sayan Basu and Dr. Vivek Singh, lead researchers from LVPEI, believe that this can be a ground-breaking and disruptive innovation in treating diseases like corneal scarring or Keratoconus.

"It is the first 3-D printed human cornea that is suitable for transplantation. The bio-ink used to make this 3D printed cornea can be sight-saving for army personnel at the site of injury to seal the corneal perforation and prevent infection during war-related injuries or in a remote area with no tertiary eye care facility," they said.

Missing jawan's body found 38 years later

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HALDWANI

The body of an Army jawan was found in an old bunker in Siachen, 38 years after he went missing in an avalanche while on patrol.

Chandrashekhar Harbola of 19 Kumaon Regiment was part of a 20-member troop that took part in Operation Meghdoot to fight Pakistan in 1984.

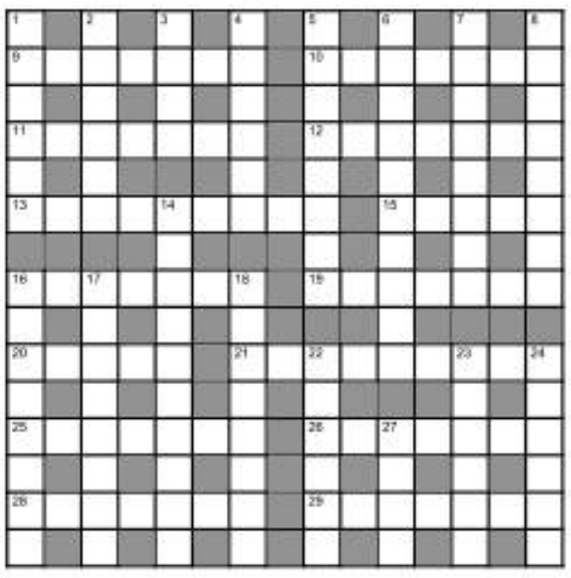
During patrolling, they came in the grip of an ice storm. While the bodies of 15 soldiers were recovered, those of the other five could not be found and Harbola was one among them.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13636

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

9 Yes, if he can make wide-angle lens (7)
10 Secured 3 points – United embarrassed (7)
11 Closed after serving some tequila, first lover in that place spilled (7)
12 Violent crime in fellowship? What a country! (7)
13 Combined? Isolated possibly after tea as discussed (9)
15 An excellent doctor in residence for feet (5)
16 Maybe Brit's worry is fish (7)
19 Maybe a cover on head in pouring rain, worn by man on time (7)
20 Strange dismissal, takes run edging first (5)
21 Most oily? Not good. Instead about to get the most wrinkled (9)
25 Gave one try on spot (7)
26 Rene shortly visiting prophet to get calmer (7)
28 Experts on east involved in Market Research on India (7)
29 Upright reason, rational (7)

Down

1 Off-site assembly. I am leaving to get make up (6)
2 Distribute to guards in vessel endlessly (6)
3 Spy in retreat or castle (4)
4 Slave trade conducted in grasslands area (6)
5 Oliver and Ahaana hiding in terrace (8)
6 According to a connection, primarily Surya has rough tempers (10)
7 Doctor Martin's one of railway crew (8)
8 Traffic at Chennai time after 1? You should be one who dreams (8)
14 Crane damaged in slope? Criminal (10)
16 Sums for bachelor student, easy to begin with, Mathematics can be heartless (8)
17 Manchester United initially had money that is spent on opening, facing protests (8)
18 Of building model, as per report, easy to steal mostly (8)
22 Simpler for each school to get a heartless educator (6)
23 Reunions? Missing old redheads partying – they are boredoms (6)
24 First to express romantic concern, emotions try a poetry (6)
27 Free England trip (4)

SUDOKU

		9	3	5			2	
			6				3	1
	7			2				8
4	5					3	7	
	8		1	7	2		9	
	9	2					8	6
2				1			4	
9	4				5			
	6			8	4	2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13635

S	A	F	E		R	O	A		D					
U	N	C	L	E	A	N		E	M	B	A	R	G	O
N		A	V		A		T		V		E		U	
S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R		I	O	N	I	C
G		E		R		L		E		G		A		E
R	E	E	K		P	E	G	A	S	U	S			
E		L		A		D		T		S		K		H
E	N	L	I	S	T				A	L	B	I	N	O
N		A		T		R		T		Y		D		L
			A	R	S	E	N	A	L		O	N	L	Y
E		M		O		D		B		E		A		O
T	W	E	E	T		W	A	L	L	P	A	P	E	R
H		D		U		I		E		O		P		D
O	M	I	C	R	O	N		A	S	P	H	E	R	E
S		A		F		E		U		T		H		R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	8	3	4	1	6	9	7	2
2	9	4	3	5	7	8	6	1
6	1	7	9	8	2	5	3	4
8	6	5	1	2	4	7	9	3
7	3	1	5	6	9	4	2	8
4	2	9	8	7	3	1	5	6
3	4	6	7	9	8	2	1	5
1	7	8	2	3	5	6	4	9
9	5	2	6	4	1	3	8	7

FAITH

He is the Lord of all

The Vedas and the Upanishads proclaim the Lord's Supremacy and also show that it is limitless and unfathomable. Azhwars and acharyas in the Vaishnava tradition have reiterated this very clearly to make us understand the Lord's unique greatness. There is nothing in this entire creation, Leela Vibhuti and also beyond, known as Nitya Vibhuti, that does not belong to Him. Through their works, they have inculcated in us the habit to consider that all what we think we possess actually is God's, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a discourse.

There is no question of thinking that anything belongs to any jivatma. This is the spirit of Satvika Tyaga that is the essence of Visishtadvaita philosophy. All our actions, sacred and secular, are to be considered as being driven by God. All that we eat, drink or enjoy in this world is God's. This is clearly expressed by Alavandar in his hymn Stotra Ratna. In a verse, he claims that this sarira, this atma and all else is God's. Sastras teach us the fundamental truth that the perishable sarira is to be treated as secondary to the immortal atma.

But still, Alavandar has shown that every jivatma is bound to serve the Lord with this sarira, though it has to be shed. It should be seen as a valuable gift of God. Out of compassion God has given the jivatma the sarira as the effect of individual karma phala. So, the acharya promises God that this sarira with all its limitations is for His sake. What we eat has to be an offering to the antaryami in us God. Andal also shows that our lives are meant to sing the Lord's glories, worship Him with pure flowers and a pure heart and seek His feet. This is a sure way to get rid of our sins. Our duty is to serve Him with our thought, word and deed.

Taliban mark turbulent first year in power

While the group's fighters celebrate 'victory', ordinary Afghans, particularly women, face hardships

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Taliban fighters chanted victory slogans next to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Monday as they marked the first anniversary of their return to power in Afghanistan following a turbulent year that saw women's rights crushed and a humanitarian crisis worsen.

Exactly a year ago, the hardline Islamists captured Kabul after a nationwide lightning offensive against government forces just as U.S.-led troops were ending two decades of intervention in a conflict that cost tens of thousands of lives.

"This great victory came after countless sacrifices and hardships," Abdul Ghani Baradar, Deputy Prime Minister and co-founder of the Taliban, said on Twitter.

Victory march: Taliban supporters in Kabul celebrate the first anniversary of their return to power in Afghanistan. • AFP

"On this day... the Islamic Emirate brought the world's superpower and its allies to their knees and Afghans gained their independence," added Mr. Baradar, who in 2020 signed a deal with Washington offering security guarantees in return for the withdrawal of foreign forces.

The last American troops left on August 31, ending a chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans who had rushed to Kabul's airport in the hope of boarding a flight out of the country.

Images of crowds storming the airport, climbing atop aircraft – and some clinging to a departing U.S. military cargo plane – aired on news bulletins around the world.

'Moments of joy'

"We fulfilled the obligation of jihad and liberated our country," said Niamatullah Hekmat, a fighter who entered the capital on August 15 last year. "The time when we entered Kabul, and when the Americans left, those were moments of joy."

Many Taliban fighters gathered in Kabul's central Massoud Square, where they displayed the regime's white banners and performed a traditional victory dance, some holding weapons and others taking pictures on their mobile phones.

However, for many ordinary Afghans – particularly women – the return of the Taliban has only increased hardships, with aid agencies saying that half the country's 38 million people face extreme poverty.

Many restrictions have been imposed on women to comply with the movement's austere vision of Islam. Tens of thousands of girls have been shut out of secondary schools, while women have been barred from returning to many government jobs.

And in May, they were ordered to fully cover up in public, including their faces, ideally with a burqa.

While Afghans acknowledge a decline in violence since the Taliban seized power – barring some deadly attacks by Islamic State group – the humanitarian crisis has left many helpless.

Suu Kyi sentenced to 6 more years in jail on graft charges

She denies all allegations; her lawyers are likely to file appeal

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK

A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on more corruption charges on Monday, adding six years to her earlier 11-year prison sentence, a legal official said.

The trial was held behind closed doors, with no access for media or the public, and her lawyers were forbidden by a gag order from revealing information about the proceedings.

In the four corruption cases decided on Monday, Ms. Suu Kyi was alleged to have abused her position to rent public land at below market prices and to have built a residence with donations meant for charitable purposes. She received sentences of three years for each of the four counts, but the sentences for three of them will be served concurrently, giving her a total of six more years in prison.

Aung San Suu Kyi

She already had been sentenced to 11 years in prison on sedition, corruption and other charges at earlier trials after the military ousted her elected government and detained her in February 2021.

Analysts say the numerous charges against her and her allies are an attempt to legitimise the military's seizure of power while eliminating her from politics before the military holds an election next year.

Ms. Suu Kyi and her co-defendants have denied all the allegations and their lawyers are expected to file appeals in the coming days, said the legal official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorised to release information and feared punishment by the authorities.

U.K. authorises Moderna's Omicron-specific booster

All adults over 50 would be offered the vaccine dose

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

British health authorities on Monday authorised the use of Moderna's Omicron variant-specific COVID-19 vaccine booster for adults, the first country to do so. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted conditional approval to Moderna's bivalent vaccine, Spikevax, which combines mRNA sequences that code for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein from both the original and the Omicron BA.1 variant.

The U.K. government had, in July, said all adults over 50 would be offered a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (no vaccine was specified) in the autumn.

'Vaccine potent against both original strain of virus and the BA.1 variant.' • REUTERS

The vaccine provided a "strong immune response" against the original strain of the virus as well as the BA.1 strain, MHRA Chief Executive June Raine said in a statement.

"Like all medicines, the vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them," said a patient information sheet on Spikevax, published by the U.K. government. Included in the possible side effects are an increased risk of myocarditis/pericarditis (inflammation of the heat muscle/pericardium, the lining around the heart).

A few cases of capillary leak syndrome (CLS), i.e., the leakage of fluid from small blood vessels, have also been reported.

"We have in place a comprehensive safety surveillance strategy for monitoring the safety of all U.K.-approved COVID-19 vaccines and this will include the vaccine approved today," Ms. Raine said.

29 killed in Afghanistan flash floods

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains killed at least 29 people and destroyed scores of homes in eastern Afghanistan, officials said on Monday.

Heavy rains over the past 24 hours lashed Parwan, Kapisa and Nangarhar provinces.

Mohammad Naseeb Haqqani, spokesman for the Ministry of Disaster Management, said at least 20 people were killed in Parwan and more than 50 were injured.

"Crops, dozens of homes and roads have been destroyed," he said, adding that five people died in Kapisa and four in Nangarhar.

China announces new military drills

It accuses U.S. delegation in Taiwan of trying to challenge its one-China principle

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI

China announced more military drills around Taiwan as the self-governing island's President met with members of a new U.S. congressional delegation on Monday, threatening to renew tensions between Beijing and Washington just days after a similar visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi angered China.

Ms. Pelosi was the highest-level member of the U.S. government to visit Taiwan in 25 years, and her trip prompted nearly two weeks of threatening military exercises by China, which claims the island as its own. In those previous drills, Beijing fired missiles over the island and into the Taiwan Strait and sent warplanes and navy ships across the waterway's midline, which has long been a buffer between the sides that split amid civil war in 1949.

New tensions: Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, centre, with the U.S. delegation in Taipei on Monday. • REUTERS

China accuses the U.S. of encouraging the island's independence through the sale of weapons and engagement between U.S. politicians and the island's government. Washington says it does not support independence, has no formal diplomatic ties with the island and maintains that the two sides should settle their dispute peacefully – but it is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself against any attack.

"China will take resolute and strong measures to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a briefing on Monday, after Beijing announced new drills in the seas and skies around Taiwan. "A handful of U.S. politicians, in collusion with the separatist forces of Taiwan independence, are trying to challenge the one-China principle, which is out of their depth and doomed to failure."

It was not clear if the new drills had already started since the Ministry gave no details about where and when they would be conducted.

India gifts Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka

Colombo had requested two of them in 2018; another to arrive within two years

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India on Monday handed over a Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, reaffirming its security ties with the island nation.

Vice-Admiral S.N. Ghormade and High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, were in attendance at the handing-over event held on Monday, along with dignitaries of the Government and armed forces of Sri Lanka, including the Defence Secretary, CDS and the Commanders of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force.

"Security of India and Sri Lanka are enhanced by mutual understanding, mutual trust and cooperation. Gifting of Dornier 228 is India's latest contribution to this cause," High Commissioner Baglay said on Monday, a day before the arrival of a Chinese space and satellite tracking vessel that India has voiced concern over. Despite New Delhi conveying its apprehensions at high levels, including to Mr. Wickremesinghe, Colombo has cleared the visit of the Chinese vessel, after requesting its arrival be deferred by five days.

Security boost: Water jets welcoming the Dornier aircraft at the Sri Lankan Air Force base in Katunayake on Monday. • AFP

The gifting of the Dornier aircraft to the Sri Lanka Air Force "is of relevance to and a step to meet its requirements for maritime safety and security," the Indian High Commission said in a tweet, adding: "It is an example of India's strength, adding to the strength of its friends and neighbours, including those in Indian Ocean Region and the Bay of Bengal, such as Sri Lanka".

'Benefit to people'

The capability of the aircraft to undertake search and rescue operations "exemplifies its direct benefit to the people", the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "The gift to the people of Sri Lanka will equip the country to contribute more towards the security of the Indian Ocean Region at large," the Ministry said.

In a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the IPKF Memorial, Vice-Admiral Ghormade paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

Last week, Sri Lanka Air Force announced that the Indian Air force was gifting it a Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, while noting another aircraft would be donated within two years. The Indian gift was in response to a request from the Sri Lankan government in 2018 for two Dornier Reconnaissance Aircraft to enhance the maritime surveillance capabilities of the island nation, the Sri Lanka Air Force said.

Sri Lanka is a member of the 'Colombo Security Conclave', that began as a trilateral initiate involving India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and later included Mauritius, for maritime cooperation in the region.

Kenya's William Ruto declared President-elect

Several EC members reject results

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NAIROBI

Deputy President William Ruto was on Monday declared winner of Kenya's hard-fought presidential poll but the announcement was mired in controversy after several members of the Election Commission (EC) rejected the results.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairman Wafula Chebukati said Mr. Ruto had won almost 7.18 million votes (50.4%) in the August 9 vote, against 6.94 million (48.8%) for his rival Raila Odinga.

"I stand before you despite intimidation and harrassment. I have done my duty according to the laws of the land," Mr. Chebukati said. "In accordance with the law, I... hereby declare that Ruto William Samoei has been duly elected as the President."

William Ruto

After the results were announced, Mr. Ruto vowed to work with "all leaders" in Kenya.

South Korea offers North aid for denuclearisation

Yoon calls for better ties with Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday offered "audacious" economic assistance to North Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons programme while avoiding criticism of the North days after it threatened "deadly" retaliation over the COVID-19 outbreak it blames on the South.

"If North Korea halts its nuclear weapons development and genuinely commits to a process of denuclearisation, the South will respond with huge economic rewards that would be provided in phases, Mr. Yoon said.

"We will implement a large-scale programme to provide food, providing assistance for establishing infrastructure for the production, transmission and distribution of electrical power, and carry out projects to modernise ports and airports to facilitate trade," he said.

His proposal was not meaningfully different from previous South Korean offers that have already been rejected by North Korea.

Mr. Yoon also called for better ties with Japan, saying their shared values will help them overcome historical grievances linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule before the end of Second World War.

'States signal intent to raise capex spend'

NIPFP analysis of budgets shows 18 major States looking to rein in revenue deficits this fiscal year

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

States aim to ramp up capital spending and rein in revenue deficits this year as they chart a return to fiscal consolidation following the pandemic shock, and have even factored in the loss of GST Compensation from the Centre, an analysis of States' 2022-23 budgets shows.

A study of 18 major States' budgets by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) shows that although they have factored in slower growth this year, the States aim to reduce revenue spending by 0.13% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and increase capex by 0.24% of GSDP.

Wider stimulus: States aim to increase capital spending by an aggregate ₹1.21 lakh crore in 2022-23. • AFP

As per their budget estimates, the States aim to increase revenue spending by an aggregate ₹3.5 lakh crore and capital expenditure by ₹1.21 lakh crore in 2022-23. If successful, this would help increase the share of States' capital spending marginally from the 2-2.5% of GSDP levels that it has been hovering around for long, according to the study's author.

"States have resumed following the path of fiscal consolidation post COVID-19 and success in achieving revenue as well as expenditure targets set in the budget of 2022-23 could help them control deficits and debts," NIPFP associate professor Sacchidananda Mukherjee concluded on the basis of the 18 States' budget math.

The States studied are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Odisha, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

On a combined basis, these States have pegged GSDP growth at current market prices at 12.1%, compared with 14% in 2021-22 as per revised estimates and 3.6% in the COVID-hit 2020-21.

"In budget estimates of 2022-23, except Goa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, all States project a fall in growth rate of GSDP," the paper's author noted, adding that States had adopted a cautious approach in projecting their budget estimates for 2022-23.

'Signs of improvement'

While their consolidated fiscal deficit in 2022-23 is projected at 3.29% of GSDP, in line with the Finance Commission's prescribed glide path of 3.3%, they aim to cut the share of revenue deficit sharply from 50.3% in 2020-21, to 16%. Revenue deficit accounted for 32.4% of fiscal deficit in 2021-22.

State finances showed signs of improvement in 2021-22 after two consecutive years of fiscal stress, aided by improved revenue mobilisation which helped States increase spending as well as reduce revenue and fiscal deficits in 2021-22, the NIPFP study noted.

China sees surprise rate cut as economic data disappoints

People's Bank of China cuts rates to revive credit demand

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's economy unexpectedly slowed in July, data showed on Monday, with factory and retail activity squeezed by Beijing's zero-COVID policy and a property crisis, while the central bank surprised markets with rate cuts to revive demand.

Industrial output grew 3.8% in July from a year earlier, after expanding 3.9% in June, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. That compared with a 4.6% increase expected in a Reuters poll.

Retail sales, which only turned positive in June, rose 2.7% from a year earlier, missing analysts' forecast for 5% growth and slower than the 3.1% seen in June.

The world's second-biggest economy narrowly escaped a contraction in the June quarter.

However, risks to growth abound as many Chinese cities, including manufacturing hubs and popular tourist spots, imposed lockdown measures in July after fresh outbreaks of the more transmissible Omicron variant.

"All economic data disappointed in July, with the exception being exports," said Nie Wen, Shanghai-based economist at Hwabao Trust. "Loan demand from the real economy remained weak, suggesting cautious outlook for the months ahead."

In order to prop up growth, the central bank on Monday unexpectedly lowered interest rates on key lending facilities for the second time this year.

New yuan loans tumbled by more than expected in July as companies and consumers stayed wary of taking on fresh debt, data showed on Friday.

Oil slides by $1 a barrel as China economy slows

Saudi Aramco ready to boost output

REUTERS
SINGAPORE

Oil prices dropped for a second session as weak China economic data triggered concerns about demand at the world's largest crude importer while the head of the world's top exporter, Saudi Aramco, said it was ready to ramp up output.

Brent crude futures fell 89 cents, or 0.9%, to $97.26 a barrel by 0034 GMT after settling 1.5% lower on Friday. China's economy unexpectedly slowed in July, while refinery output tumbled to 12.53 million barrels per day, its lowest since March 2020, government data showed.

"The official data suggests that oil demand is weakening as domestic logistics and consumer demand are deterred by the record high oil pump prices," said Heron Lin, an economist at Moody's Analytics.

Saudi Aramco stands ready to raise crude oil output to its maximum capacity of 12 million barrels per day (bpd) if requested to do so by the Saudi Arabian government, CEO Amin Nasser told reporters on Sunday.

SBI to sustain 15% loan growth in FY23: Khara

Corporate, retail loan demand rising despite hardening of lending rates, he says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) has said it expects to sustain credit growth of about 15% in the current fiscal with rising demand from retail and corporate borrowers despite hardening of lending rates.

The bank reported a 14.9% rise in advances to ₹29,00,636 crore in the first quarter ended June 30 over the year-earlier period.

Of this, retail loans registered a growth rate of 18.6% while corporate advances improved by 10.6%.

YONO 2.0

SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara also said the bank would soon introduce Only YONO which is YONO 2.0.

"The digital leadership journey of the bank is continuing. More than 96.6% of

Dinesh Kumar Khara

the transactions are now routed through alternate channels," he said.

"Sixty-five per cent of the new savings accounts are opened through YONO," he said on an analyst call.

On maintaining 15% credit growth, he said, "The reason behind is demand for term loans and also the under utilisation of the working capital, which is all aggregating to almost ₹5 lakh crore, and the pipeline is almost ₹1.2 lakh crore.

"So, I'm quite hopeful that we should be in a position to sustain this in the subsequent quarters."

Corporate book should grow to the extent of about ₹2.5-3 lakh crore during the year, he said, adding, even in SMEs, there was traction and pipeline was getting created.

With the latest rate increase by the RBI, the repo rate increased to 5.4%, an increase of 140 basis points since May this year.

On the economic situation, Mr. Khara said the economy was almost on track with the resumption of air travel and removal of other containment measures by most of the countries.

However, he said, the volatile geopolitical situation still posed a downside risk.

Raises lending rates by up to 50 basis points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) raised benchmark lending rates by up to 50 basis points (or 0.5%), a move that will lead to a rise in EMIs for borrowers.

The increase in lending rate comes days after the RBI raised its benchmark lending rate by 0.5% to tame inflation. External Benchmark based Lending Rate and Repo-Linked Lending Rate have been raised by 0.5% while the increase in Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate is 0.2% across tenors.

M&M unveils five e-SUVs under XUV, BE brands

Firm plans to harness INGLO platform

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) unveiled five e-SUVs (sport utility vehicles) under two EV brands - XUV with the Twin Peak logo in Copper and BE - developed on the new INGLO platform.

While brand XUV would offer a range of products that builds upon the Mahindra legacy, the BE brand, with a new design language would target a new set of customers, M&M said.

The five e-SUVs include the XUV.e8 to be introduced in December 2024, XUV.e9 in April 2025, BE.05 in October 2025, BE.07 in October 2026, and the BE.09, whose time of introduction is yet to be finalised.

The company said the INGLO platform encapsulates progressive battery technology, platform architecture, brain power and human machine interface.

"Mahindra will offer customers future-ready technology, head-turning design, world-class products and the benefits of global partnerships," Anish Shah, MD & CEO, Mahindra Group, said. "By 2027, we expect a quarter of the SUVs we sell will be electric."

IN BRIEF

I-T e-filing, GSTN portals working fine: Parekh

BENGALURU

The income tax e-filing and GST Network portals are working "pretty well" and running effectively, Infosys CEO Salil Parekh said. He highlighted the high GST collections, and 5.8 crore I-T return filings within the set deadline of July 31. PTI

Suzlon plans to raise ₹1,200 cr. via rights issue

MUMBAI

Suzlon Group feels the financial difficulties that afflicted the wind turbine maker are behind it, with the more than ₹3,000-crore debt refinance led by REC. The firm plans to raise up to ₹1,200 crore through a rights issue of shares by fiscal-end to pare the refinanced debt of ₹3,000 crore, said CFO Himanshu Mody. PTI

BPCL to spend ₹1.4 lakh cr. on petrochem, gas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) will invest ₹1.4 lakh crore in petrochemicals, city gas and clean energy in the next five years as it looks to non-fuel businesses for growth.

BPCL, the nation's second-biggest oil refining and fuel marketing firm, is 'recalibrating its strategies to leverage emerging opportunities while mitigating risks,' CMD Arun Kumar Singh said as per the firm's latest annual report.

As countries across the world opt for cleaner, carbon-free fuel, oil firms are looking at businesses to de-risk the mainstay hydrocarbon operations.

Gas is being seen as a transition fuel as electric mobility and hydrogen pick up pace.

TI eyes up to ₹1,000-cr. spend on EV platforms

Firm to start with electric 3-wheelers

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TI), which is targeting to move aggressively in the electric-vehicle (EV) segment, plans to invest up to ₹1,000 crore to create at least four EV platforms.

Vellayan Subbiah

"We are seeing a lot of opportunities on the TI-2 side (optic lenses and electric three-wheelers)," Vellayan Subbiah, executive vice-chairman, told analysts during an earnings call.

Biggest spend

"Obviously, the biggest area has been EVs. It will be the biggest spend and so, over time, our vision is to get in at least four platforms."

In February last year, Mr. Subbiah had announced the introduction of an e-3 wheeler (e3w) followed by tractors and HCVs. While the e3w is being produced in-house, tractors and HCVs would be made through acquisitions. Besides, TI was looking at a fourth platform as well. It might consume a large chunk of TI-2 capital, Mr. Subbiah had stated.

He said the initial product range might not cover much of the market but the largest was going to be one of 30-40 hp and 40-50 hp tractors.

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Ola's first electric car will hit Indian roads in 2024: Aggarwal

Mobility player to unveil 6 cars to be made at T.N. factory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ola Electric said its first electric car, with a range of 500 kilometres per charge and an acceleration capacity of 0-100 km in four seconds, would be rolled out on Indian roads in 2024.

Between 2024 and 2026, the company would make six different cars based on two platforms at the Ola Future Factory in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, which would have the capacity to produce one million electric cars, the company said.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said the electric car would be different from the "dull and boring" ones currently in the market.

Bhavish Aggarwal

"We deserve a car that defines the new India," he said.

"It will be the sportiest, keyless, handleless and with an all-glass roof," the Ola CEO elaborated.

He said the car would come with a Move OS and assisted driving capabilities on a par with global standards. The design would be "futuristic", while the size would be similar to that of a hatchback, he said.

Although Mr. Aggarwal did not divulge the price of the electric car, he hinted that Ola's EV products would be priced in the range of $1,000-50,000 (electric scooters included).

He said it was important that the country made batteries on its own.

"If we quickly invest, we will be able to scale up and be a global leader in this space," Mr. Aggarwal added.

Responding to a journalist's query about speculation of a possible merger between Ola and Uber, he said, "We have already rubbished this rumour.

"I will not acquire a loss-making business," he added.

Essar aims to invest 1% of India's capex

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Essar Group would aim to invest 1% of the country's total capex as it had done earlier, according to group director Prashant Ruia.

He disclosed this while addressing employees on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations on Monday. However, Mr. Ruia did not quantify the investment to be made.

"We promise to create sustainability-based businesses, build future-centric assets and ethical companies which will generate value for all stakeholders for the next 75 years," Mr. Ruia added.

"Let us resolve to lead the country into the new economy, the same way we did post liberalisation of the old economy," he said.

Real fights back for winning start

Cristante strikes for Roma; Immobile decides the game for Lazio

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

David Alaba scored with a stunning free-kick immediately after coming on as a substitute as reigning champion Real Madrid came from behind to beat Almeria 2-1 in its opening game of the season in LaLiga on Sunday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side trailed to an early goal by Largie Ramazani away against its newly promoted opponent, but Lucas Vazquez equalised just after the hour mark.

The winner arrived with 15 minutes remaining at Almeria's Power Horse Stadium, as Alaba strode onto the pitch and curled a free-kick in off the upright after Luka Modric had been fouled just outside the box.

Super sub: Alaba came off the bench to curl in Real's winner off a free-kick. • AFP

Made to work hard

Real was made to work hard for the points against an Almeria side which won last season's second-tier title to return to LaLiga after a seven-year absence.

At one point it looked like Madrid might suffer a defeat in its opening league game of the season for the first time since 2008, with Ancelotti's decision to rotate his squad not initially paying off.

Roma began its Serie A campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 win at Salernitana on Sunday, while Ciro Immobile shot Lazio to a comeback 2-1 win over Bologna.

Paulo Dybala and Georginio Wijnaldum both made their league debuts for Jose Mourinho's Roma but it was an older hand in Bryan Cristante who decided the match in the 33rd minute.

Italy international Cristante claimed the points with a drive from the edge of the area which took at least one deflection before nestling in the bottom corner.

Italy striker Immobile coolly slotted home the winner with 11 minutes remaining at the Stadio Olimpico to complete a comeback which looked unlikely when the hosts went a man down in the fourth minute.

The results: LaLiga: Cadiz 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Kubo 24); Valencia 1 (Soler 45+1-pen) bt Girona 0; Almeria 1 (Ramazani 6) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Vazquez 61, Alaba 75).

Serie A: Fiorentina 3 (Bonaventura 16, Jovic 34, Radu 90+5-og) bt Cremonese 2 (Okereke 19, Buonaiuto 68); Lazio 2 (De Silvresti 69-og, Immobile 79) bt Bologna 1 (Arnatovic 38-pen); Salernitana 0 lost to Roma 1 (Cristante 33); Spezia 1 (Nzola 36) bt Empoli 0.

Tuchel may be punished for referee comments

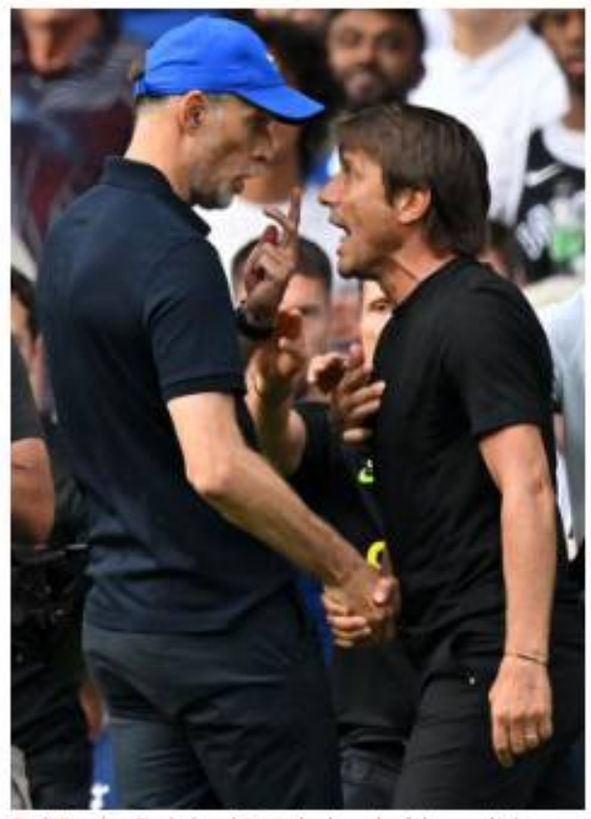
ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel can expect to receive more than just a suspension in the fallout from the latest feisty match with Tottenham in the Premier League.

Tuchel is set to find himself in trouble for some incendiary comments about the referee, too.

Most of the post-match focus after Sunday's 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge was on the angry exchanges between Tuchel and Tottenham manager Antonio Conte during and after the game. Both coaches were shown red cards after squaring up to each other following their aggressive hand shake after the final whistle, and are likely to be banned from the dugout for their teams' next game.

However, Tuchel also turned on referee Anthony Taylor in his post-match news conference, saying "maybe it would be better" if Taylor no longer officiated games involving Chelsea.



Red! Coaches Tuchel and Conte had much of the spotlight on them for their angry exchanges during and after the game. • AFP

Asked about a view held by some fans that Taylor has a history of decisions against Chelsea, Tuchel said: "I don't think just some of the fans think that. I can assure you the whole dressing room of us, every single person, thinks that."

The Football Association will look into those comments and even Tuchel raised the likelihood of being "punished" for speaking out against Taylor.

Duleep Trophy likely to be held in Tamil Nadu

'BCCI team to visit three cities in the State to assess conditions'

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

The Duleep Trophy, in all likelihood, will be held in Chennai, Coimbatore and Salem. The competition, which makes a comeback to the domestic calendar, will be held between Sept. 8 and 25. Reliable sources in the TNCA revealed to *The Hindu* that a team from the BCCI would visit the three cities over the next two days to assess the conditions at the venues.

Mere formality

"This is a mere formality. The conditions in these venues for conducting the tournament are excellent. We are very confident of hosting the Duleep Trophy," the source said.

Battle-ready

Coimbatore and Salem hosted the Tamil Nadu Premier League recently with great success.

The grounds and the pitches came in for much praise and the two centres are battle-ready to conduct the Duleep Trophy.

Construction work is still going on at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium but, according to sources, the pavilion will be shifted to the press box end so that the matches can take place without disrupting the renovation work.

This year's Duleep Trophy will be played in the traditional inter-zonal format, discarding the ludicrous competition between assorted teams, and has generated considerable interest.

Wonderful stage

And the competition will provide a wonderful stage for several bright contenders looking to break into India-A and the Indian teams.

"We are always happy to host domestic competitions. And we are delighted to be hosting, almost certainly, the Duleep Trophy as it makes a return to domestic cricket," the source said.

Patriotic fervour

Homeland at heart: The Indian contingent celebrated the nation's Independence Day in Harare on Monday. The first of the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe begins in the city on Thursday. • TWITTER/BCCI

Azlan Shah Cup set to make a comeback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, an annual invitational international men's hockey tournament, is set to make a comeback in November this year after a two-year break .

The tournament didn't take place in the last two years due to COVID-19. The last time it was held in 2019, South Korea beat India in the final to emerge champion.

India has been invited alongside Australia, Germany and England for the tournament, scheduled to be held from November 16 to 25 in Ipoh, Malaysia.

Khiladis beat Warriors

ANI
PUNE

Mumbai Khiladis opened its account by securing a nail-biting eight-point victory (51-43) against Rajasthan Warriors in their second match at the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho here on Monday.

The Mumbai team's Gajanan Shengal impressed in the attack, scoring as many as 16 points with two pole dives and one sky dive.

Other results: Odisha Juggernauts bt Chennai Quick Guns 51-43.

On Sunday: Telugu Yoddhas bt Chennai Quick Guns 48-38.

West Indies cruises to victory

Hands New Zealand its first limited-over loss of 2022

NZ IN WI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

West Indies handed New Zealand its first limited-over defeat of the year by cruising to a consolation eight-wicket win in the third and final T20 International at Sabina Park on Sunday.

Odean Smith improved on his career-best T20I bowling figures for the third time in four matches as the fast bowling all-rounder claimed three for 29.

That helped limit the Black Caps to 145 for seven after captain Kane Williamson chose to bat.

Series wrapped up

New Zealand had already wrapped up the series by winning the first two matches.

West Indies' platform for the comfortable win was established by openers Shamarh Brooks (56 not out) and Brandon King (53) in a 102-run opening stand.

"This was special, being able to give this performance at home," said King on receiving the Man-of-the-Match award for his 35-ball innings.

"My job is the same no matter what total we are chasing, which is to get the team off to a good start."

Rovman Powell, leading the side in the absence of regular captain Nicholas Pooran, sealed victory in style off the last ball of the 19th over as the home side reached 150 for two.

New Zealand struggled to establish any sort of batting momentum although Glenn Phillips was again in prime form, top-scoring with 41 off 26 balls before falling to Smith at the start of the 17th over.

Solid foundation: Opener Brooks top scored with an unbeaten 56 for West Indies in a successful chase. • AFP

"West Indies adapted to the conditions nicely and we just couldn't open up an end with the ball," Williamson conceded.

Guptill's record

This was a disappointing series for the veteran opener Martin Guptill but with Sunday's score of 15 he at least had the satisfaction of raising his overall T20I run tally to 3,497, 10 more than India captain Rohit Sharma as the top run-getter in all T20I cricket. The two teams now play a three-match ODI series beginning on Wednesday in Barbados.

The scores: New Zealand 145/7 in (Glenn Phillips 41, Odean Smith 3/29, Akeal Hosein 2/28) lost to West Indies 150/2 off in 19 overs (Brandon King 53, Shamarh Brooks 56 n.o., Rovman Powell 27 n.o.). Toss: New Zealand. MoM: Brandon King.

West Indies won by eight wickets; New Zealand wins series 2-1.

Washington out with shoulder injury

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Off-spinner Washington Sundar's return to international cricket will be further delayed as a left shoulder injury sustained during a 50-over game for his county side Lancashire has now ruled him out of three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe starting Aug. 18.

"Yes, Washington Sundar is ruled out of the Zimbabwe series. He has suffered an injury on his left shoulder while fielding during Royal London Cup game between Lancashire and Worcestershire at Old Trafford. He will have to undergo rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy," a senior BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity.

Pakistan frets over Shaheen's fitness

Takes on the Netherlands in a ODI series from today

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROTTERDAM

Pakistan will look to collect crucial World Cup qualifying points when it takes on the Netherlands in a three-match ODI series from Tuesday, but will have to be wary about the fitness of star bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Knee injury

The 22-year-old paceman suffered a knee injury on the recent tour of Sri Lanka, a worrying setback with the Asia Cup coming up at the end of the month.

Pakistan team bosses do not want to overload a fast bowler who has already played 97 times across all three formats since his international debut just four years ago.

"We're taking a couple of doctors with us to take care of Shaheen and want him to play a game against Netherlands to see if he's fit and ready for the Asia Cup," said Pakistan skipper Babar Azam.

Setback: Shaheen is nursing a knee injury with the Asia Cup coming up. • FILE PHOTO

The series in Rotterdam was postponed due to Covid in 2020. It forms part of the 13-nation Super League from where the top seven teams plus hosts India will qualify for the 2023 World Cup.

Pakistan is currently third with 90 points, having beaten a formidable Australia 2-1 in its last ODI series at home.

Chappell calls time on commentary career

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

Former Australia cricketer Ian Chappell, who spent 45 years explaining the game from behind the microphone, has decided to call time on his commentary career.

With Richie Benaud, Bill Lawry and Tony Greig, Chappell formed an incisive and unmatched quartet for Channel Nine.

In 2019, he was diagnosed with skin cancer and underwent five weeks of treatment to overcome the disease.

"When it comes to commentary, I've been thinking about it," he told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "I had a minor stroke a few years back and I got off lucky. But it just makes everything harder. And I just thought with all the travel and, you know, walking upstairs and things like that, it's all just going to get harder.

"Then I read what Rabbits (legendary rugby league commentator Ray Warren) said with retirement and it really struck home when I read the bit where he said, 'you're always one sentence closer to making a mistake'".

The 78-year-old top order batter Chappell scored 5,345 runs at an average of 42.2 during his Test career spanning 1964-1980. He also captained in 30 matches.

He played 16 ODIs between 1971 and 1980 and after calling it quits, he took up the microphone in what was the beginning of another glorious innings.

Ian Chappell. • FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

LIVE TELECAST

Netherlands vs Pakistan: 1st ODI, FANCODE, 2.30 p. m.
Grand Prix Badminton League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Ultimate Kho kho: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7.30 p.m. & 8.45 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & VOOT SELECT, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Carreno Busta emerges winner

MONTREAL

Pablo Carreno Busta seized his first career ATP Masters 1000 title on Sunday with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Hubert Hurkacz in Montreal. Carreno Busta — playing in his first final at the elite Masters level — became the third Spaniard to lift the Canadian title after Rafael Nadal and Manuel Orantes. AFP

Halep clinches Toronto title

TORONTO

Former World No. 1 Simona Halep fought off a challenge from Beatriz Haddad Maia on Sunday, beating the Brazilian 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to win the WTA Toronto Masters.

The two-time Grand Slam champion from Romania will return to the top-10 in the world rankings as a result of her third Canadian title — her ninth at the elite WTA 1000 level.

The result: Final: Halep bt Maia 6-3, 2-6, 6-3. AFP

Bernal to return seven months after crash: team

LONDON

Former Tour de France winner Egan Bernal will return to racing at the Tour of Denmark on Tuesday, seven months after a serious training accident in Colombia, his Ineos Grenadiers team said. The 25-year-old specialist climber revealed he "almost died" after suffering multiple broken bones when he hit a stationary bus at speed in January, but Ineos said he had made "remarkable progress" since then. AFP

Lo Celso of Spurs joins Villarreal on loan

LONDON

Tottenham midfielder Giovani Lo Celso has joined Spanish side Villarreal on loan for the rest of the season. Lo Celso spent the second half of last season on loan at Villarreal and has returned after failing to win a place in Antonio Conte's side at the start of the new Premier League campaign. AFP

Carlos set for a long spell out after injury

BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa defender Diego Carlos is set for a long spell out after rupturing his Achilles tendon. The Brazilian center back will require surgery, the Premier League club said on Monday, and then will begin a rehab program. Villa did not say how long it expects Carlos to be sidelined. AP

Aniruddha's knock sets up Blasters' win

Sisodia guides Hubli Tigers to a comfortable victory over Gulbarga Mystics

MAHARAJA TROPHY

CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Middle-order batsman Aniruddha Joshi's blistering unbeaten knock (57 n.o., 24b, 7x4, 3x6) and a good effort from the Bengaluru Blasters bowlers enabled the team defeat Mangalore United by 66 runs in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament here on Monday.

Needing 192 to win, United was bowled out for 125 in 16 overs.

Wickets kept falling at regular intervals as United was reduced to 57 for five off seven overs and United was not able to recover after.

Earlier, put in, Blasters posted a competitive 191 for four in their 20 overs. Aniruddha's breezy knock, which contained some pleasing lofted drives and pulls, helped the team's cause to a great extent.

Captain Mayank Agarwal scored a useful 47 (27b, 2x4, 3x6) and added 74 for the second wicket off 46 balls with K.V. Aneesh (40, 32b, 1x4, 1x6).

In the second match of the day, opener Luvnith Sisodia (96 n.o., 55b, 10x4, 4x6) helped Hubli Tigers defeat Gulbarga Mystics by five wickets.

Giving it the treatment: Aniruddha's unbeaten half-century was laced with seven fours and three sixes. • M.A. SRIRAM

Bad start

Set a target of 178 to win, Hubli Tigers started badly and was reduced to 15 for one in 2.4 overs. Luvnith and Swapnil Yalve (16) added 53 for the fifth wicket off 23 balls to help Tigers recover.

Hubli needed 52 off 36 balls and Sisodia and skipper Mithun (28 n.o., 16b, 2x4, 2x6) took the team home.

Earlier, Gulbarga Mystics made 177 for four with opener Jeshwanth Acharya (89, 57b, 6x4, 7x6) being the top-scorer.

The scores: Bengaluru Blasters 191/4 in 20 overs (Anirudha Joshi 57 n.o., Mayank Agarwal 47, K.V. Aneesh 40, S. Rakshith 34) bt Mangalore United 125 in 16 overs (R. Samarth 32, T. Pradeep 3/20, S.A. Rishi Bopanna 3/26, Kranthi Kumar 2/13).

Gulbarga Mystics 177/4 in 20 overs (Jeshwanth Acharya 89, A. Rohan Patil 28, Manish Pandey 25 n.o., M.G.Naveen 2/32) lost to Hubli Tigers 178/5 in 19 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 96 n.o., Abhimanyu Mithun 28 n.o.).

'Focus on 2024 Paris Olympics'

Women's league a step in the right direction, says Bhavani

FENCING

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Star fencer Bhavani Devi said her focus now will be on qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"There will be around 12 competitions starting from April 2023, for which the qualifying events will begin in Seoul.

"The top two from Asia will make the grade like last time," said Bhavani after arriving here on Monday. She won the singles title and Indian team bronze at the Commonwealth championships in London.

"I won it the last time in Australia in 2018. It was Indian fencing's first individual gold medal and I am very happy to defend it.

"The medal is great, not just for me but for the whole fencing family," said Bhavani while hoping that fencing will be added to the Commonwealth Games in the next edition.

Shot in the arm: Bhavani, seen with her mother, feels fencing has improved a lot and many youngsters are taking part in competitions now. • M. MUTHU GANESAH

According to Bhavani, fencing has improved a lot and many youngsters are taking part in competitions now.

"The women's league, which has just started, is a step in the right direction.

"There were around 1200 fencers in the mini (under-10 & 12) National Championships held recently."

She thanked her family, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu and her employer TANGEDCO for supporting her throughout.

Lifes Song wins feature

HYDERABAD: Mr. S. Pathy's Lifes Song piloted by Kiran Naidu won the Independence Cup, the main event of Monday's (Aug. 15) races. R.H. Sequeira trains the winner.

1. DONCASTER PLATE (1,400m). (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. ID): **TIGER MOUNTAIN** (Kiran Naidu) 1, Yaletown (Akshay Kumar) 2, Resurgence (Surya Prakash) 3 and Wind Sprite (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 7, 2-3/4 and 2. Im 27. 10s. ₹106 (w), 14, 10 and 14 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 49, SHW: 49 and 12, FP: 329, Q: 62, Tanala: 728. Favourite: Yaletown.
Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma.. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. KAMAREDDY PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **STARWALT** (Nakhat Singh) 1, Gurbaaz (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Isra (Aneel) 3 and Ashwa Miggsun (B.R. Kumar) 4. 3, Nk and 3/4. Im 41. 20s. ₹24 (w), 10, 18 and 25 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 61, SHW: 12 and 37, FP: 186, Q: 132, Tanala: 778. Favourite: Ice Berry.
Owner: Mr. C.S. Kaushik. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. ANANTHAGIRI HILLS PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. IIB): **BLACK ONYX** (D.S. Deora) 1, Indian Temple (Mohit Singh) 2, Blazing Jupiter (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Siyavash (Abhay Singh) 4. 4-3/4, Nk and 3. Im 13. 86s. ₹20 (w), 13, 70 and 17 (p). SHP: 245, THP: 50, SHW: 14 and 105, FP: 607, Q: 543, Tanala: 6,421. Favourite: Black Onyx.
Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

4. DEVARAKONDA PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **GALWAN** (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Lamha (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Char Ek Char (Ishwar Singh) 3 and Miss Marvellous (Afroz Khan) 4. 3/4, Nk and 2. Im 41. 62s. ₹25 (w), 10, 12 and 28 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 61, SHW: 14 and 15, FP: 70, Q: 29, Tanala: 393. Favourite: Lamha.
Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. INDEPENDENCE CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **LIFES SONG** (Kiran Naidu) 1, Kingston (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Blue Origin (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Morior Invictus (Ishwar Singh) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and Sh. Im 13. 14s. ₹23 (w), 13, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 48, SHW: 20 and 26, FP: 118, Q: 45, Tanala: 152. Favourite: Blue Origin.
Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. THREE WISHES PLATE (1,100m), rated up to 25 (Cat. IIB): **GOLDEN FORZA** (Kuldeep Singh) 1, N R I Secret (Santosh Raj) 2, Inside Story (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Charmer (Nakhat Singh) 4. Not run: Healthandhappiness. 6, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im 7. 39s. ₹20 (w), 10, 11 and 37 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 93, SHW: 14 and 23 (p). FP: 57, Q: 40, Tanala: 715. Favourite: Golden Forza.
Owners: Mr. C.S. Suresh, Mr. Manish Jaiswal & Mr. Sudhir Paramanand Bajaj. Trainer: S. Sreekant.
Jackpot: 70%: ₹673 (356 tkts.), 30%: 98 (1,045 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 277 (163 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 1,325 (27 tkts.), (ii) 169 (216 tkts.).

No Nadal in Spain's Davis Cup squad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal will sit out the group stage of the Davis Cup finals next month after not being named in the Spain team on Monday, while Alexander Zverev will lead the German side.

The 36-year-old Nadal won the Australian Open and French Open titles earlier this year to take his men's record tally of Grand Slam singles triumphs to 22.

But he was forced to withdraw from Wimbledon with an abdominal injury before his scheduled semi-final against Nick Kyrgios.

Nadal will not make a first Davis Cup appearance since winning the tournament for the fifth time with Spain in 2019.

Spain will instead be looking to teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz for inspiration.

Chhetri bullish on BFC's prospects

Striker is confident team can turn things around after last season's disappointment

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC footballer Sunil Chhetri believes that the team has assembled the perfect squad to turn things around after the disappointment faced in the last two Indian Super League campaigns.

BFC, which failed to qualify for the ISL playoff rounds in the previous two seasons, has taken positive steps by signing the likes of striker Roy Krishna, Spanish midfielder Javi Hernandez, right-back Prabir Das and defender Sandesh Jhingan. The club also has a new coach in Simon Grayson, a former Premier League player who went on to manage teams like Leeds United, Blackpool and Preston North End.

"The last two years have hurt. But with guys like Roy, Javi and Sandesh coming in, we have got everything that we wanted. We can't complain anymore," Chhetri said in a pre-season media interaction here.

Key to success: Chhetri belives that Roy Krishna will be crucial for BFC's fortunes. • K. MURALI KUMAR

In attack, Chhetri will be thrilled to partner with prolific goal-scorer Krishna. Turning out for ATK, Krishna finished the 2019-20 ISL season as the joint highest goal-scorer. The next year, the Fijian racked up 14 goals for ATK Mohun Bagan to win the 'Golden Ball' award for the best player of the season. Injuries and a COVID-19 bout restricted Krishna's appearances in the 2021-22 ISL season, but he did manage to score seven goals.

"In the last three or four years, Roy has by far been the best number nine alongside Coro (Ferran Corominas of FC Goa). All of us players have to do everything to make him comfortable. If Roy is made comfortable, we know what he can produce. Goal scoring comes naturally to him," Chhetri said.

On BFC's sub-par show in the previous season, under Marco Pezzaiuoli, Chhetri said, "We weren't in sync. We have to know what the coach wants, so that we can move in that direction. That's the best way to get results. We missed out on this last year. But it's not just the mistake of one person. The performances we gave as individuals – the way I missed goals, the way we defended – did not help," Chhetri said.

"As a team, what hurt was that we started missing that camaraderie inside the dressing room. This was never the case at this club. It really bothered me," Chhetri added.

Krishna explained that he views Chhetri as a role model, and that he can "learn a lot from Chhetri". "Hopefully, I'll be able to score plenty of goals," Krishna said.

BFC begins its 2022-23 campaign with a clash against Jamshedpur FC in the Durand Cup on Wednesday.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Sharath fires Kickstart into semifinals

BENGALURU: Sharath Raj Kumar scored the winner as Kickstart FC edged BFC 1-0 to enter the semifinals of the C. Puttaiah Memorial football tournament, on Monday.

The results: Roots FC 1 (Anirudh Mukundan 48) bt Kodagu FC 0; Kickstart FC 1 (Sharath Raj Kumar 25) bt BFC 0.

Srujan stars in Jain's title win

Srujan Nandan scored an unbeaten 77 as Jain PU College defeated REVA Independent PU College by five wickets in the final of the REVA Independence Day Pre-University T20 inter-collegiate tournament on Monday.

The scores: REVA Independent PU College 128 in 18.5 overs (S. Vishnu Viran 30, Ravi Kairav Reddy 29) lost to Jain PU College, VV Puram 129/5 in 12.1 overs (Srujan Nandan 77 n.o., B. Srikanth 3/21, Vikram Kumar 3/6 in 1.5 overs).

Second consecutive win for Rajendra

Former champion R.E. Rajendra of Petronas TVS Racing notched up a hard-fought second consecutive win, beating teammate and defending champion Abdul Wahid Tanveer in the K1000 2-wheeler rally, the fourth round of the GodSpeed Racing FMSCI MRF Mogrip National 2w Rally Championship 2022 organised by Karnataka Motor Sports Club here on Sunday.

Provisional results (Round 4): Class 1: Superbike Pro-Expert: R.E. Rajendra (Petronas TVS Racing) 51:21.156s; **Class 1A: Superbike Expert:** Sarath Mohan 57:03.707; **Class 2:** Anoop Manjappa 01:06:44.802; **Class 3:** Sasi Kumar 01:00:11:700; **Class 4:** Imran Pasha (TVS) 55:55:636; **Class 5:** Russel Jossy 01:02: 06.696; **Class 6:** V.S. Naresh 01:02:32.481; **Class 7:** Aishwarya Pissay (TVS) 01:07:24.068; **Class 8:** Pinkesh Thakkar (Aprilia JBR) 01:06:27:709; **Class 9:** Sanjay Somashekar 01:00:25:746; **Star of K1000:** B.K. Pawan 01:03:47.017.

Bronze for Yashaswini

Yashaswini Ghorpade settled for bronze after losing in the U19 semifinals to South Korea's Kim Seong Jin 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 4-11 at WTT Youth Contender table tennis tournament held in Sweden recently.

GSC and BAC win

Global Swim Centre (GSC) and Basavanagudi Aquatic Center (BAC) emerged the men's and women's water polo champions respectively at the Senior State Aquatic Championship held recently. Dhanush K. Murthy and Kankana R. Bhinde, both from BAC, were adjudged the individual champions.

In diving, MEG's T. Johnson, with gold medals in men's 1m and 3m springboard, and Dolphin Aquatics' Shakynah J. Rao, with gold medals in women's 1m and 3m springboard, were declared the individual champions. In men's highboard, Rajdwip Das came first.

Narrow win for Panthers

Mysore Panthers edged KGF Wolves 5-4 in the Grand Prix Badminton League on Monday.

The results: Mysore Panthers bt KGF Wolves 5-4 [Tanya Hemanth bt Rashmi Ganesh 15-5, 15-3; B.M. Rahul & Chiranjeevi Reddy bt Prakash Raj & V. Suhas 13-15, 15-10, 15-13; Rohith Mariswamy (Trump) bt Rudra Shahi 15-13, 10-15, 15-9; G. Kiran Kumar & Tanya Hiremath bt Hemanth M.Gowda & Gloria Vinayakumar 15-8, 7-15, 15-10; B.M. Rahul & Kiran Kumar & Rohith lost to Hemanth & Prakash Raj & Suhas 26-28].

On Sunday: Mangalore Sharks bt Mandya Bulls bSt 6-3 [Vijetha Harish (Trump) bt Ananya Praveen 15-5, 12-15, 15-6; Kushal Raj & Raghu Mariswamy bt Ashisth Surya & M. Madhusudhan 15-14, 15-10; G. Jayanth lost to Anirudh Deshpande 14-15, 13-15; Sunil Galdson & Vijetha lost to Sai Pratheek & Ananya (Trump) 8-15, 8-15; Raghu & Kushal & C. Sachin bt Ashith Surya & Sai Pratheek & Madhusudhan bt 21-19].

Rakshit, Anargya triumph

Rakshit R. Barigidad and Anargya Manjunath emerged the men's and women's singles champions at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament organised by Bellary District Table Tennis Association. While Rakshit defeated K.J. Aakash 6-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-8, 11-2, Anargya beat Sahana H. Murthy 9-11, 11-4, 11-8, 14-12, 11-5.

Durand Cup kicks off today

FOOTBALL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Come Tuesday, the Indian football calendar will officially kick off with the historic Durand Cup bringing together all the top teams of the country in the competitive mode ahead of a grueling league season.

The 131st edition of Asia's oldest and World's third oldest football tournament has gained importance this time after being "upgraded" as a recognised tournament in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)'s list of competitions.

This new aspect has drawn representation from all the 11 Indian Super League (ISL) sides apart from the top five I-League teams (except for holder Gokulam Kerala FC).

Joining the top clubs will be the four Services outfits, which takes the total count to 20 teams this time.

The first match will see reigning champion FC Goa taking on local giant Mohammedan Sporting SC, in a repeat of the last year's final.

Preliminary group league:
A (Kolkata): FC Goa, Mohammedan Sporting, Bengaluru FC, Jamshedpur FC and Indian Air Force.
B (Kolkata): Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Mumbai City FC, Rajasthan United FC and Indian Navy.
C (Imphal): Hyderabad FC, Chennaiyin FC, NEROCA FC, TRAU FC and Army Red.
D (Guwahati): Kerala Blasters, Odisha FC, NorthEast United FC, Sudeva Delhi FC and Army Green.

Felt I could handle the pressure: Sreeja

Hope to carry the confidence into major international events, says paddler

TABLE TENNIS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

"For the first time in my career, I felt very confident and could handle the pressure with a lot more ease right through the recent Birmingham Commonwealth Games despite being down most of the time in the matches," said Akula Sreeja, CWG mixed doubles gold medallist (partnering Sharath Kamal) in the table tennis team event.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, the 24-year-old Sreeja said the way she fought back from early deficits was very satisfying.

"I enjoyed every moment in the CWG," she added.

"Honestly, I am more confident now and hoping to carry it into the major international events including the European circuit next week and then the World team championship," said Sreeja.

"I need to improve on my backhand and bring in a lot more variety. I was glad that my mentor and coach Somnath sir (Ghosh) was there for the CWG to help me and make a critical evaluation," she said.

The Assistant Manager in Reserve Bank of India said it was a dream come true to win a gold in her maiden CWG.

"I never expected to win a gold but it was certainly a target I chased," she said. "I dedicate the gold to my coach Somnath and my parents," she added.

'Disappointing'

"It was disappointing that I couldn't win a medal in women's singles," said Sreeja.

What next? "The immediate target is to win a medal in the Worlds this October and the ultimate goal is to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics and hope to win a medal too," she said.

"With Dream Sports Foundation, Raheja Mind Space and Ctrl-S supporting my cause, I am confident of winning more medals at the highest level," she said.

Coach Somnath said his ward "played amazingly well". "She played her best game in singles but narrowly missed the medal. In doubles, anyway Sharath was there so I was confident that something good could happen," he said.

"Though I couldn't get the accreditation to sit for her matches, I was shouting from the gallery and she responded very well. Hope she will continue her form," Somnath said.

Looking ahead: Sreeja said she was glad to have her coach Somnath Ghosh at the CWG. • V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Suryakumar is a bit like de Villiers: Ponting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Suryakumar Yadav has received high praise from the great Ricky Ponting, who compared the batter with A.B. de Villiers, saying the Indian possesses a 360 degree game like the South African genius.

"Surya (Yadav) scores 360 degrees around the ground, a bit like an AB de Villiers did when he was in his actual prime. The lap shots, the late cuts, you know, the ramps over the keeper's head," Ponting said on the latest episode of The ICC Review.